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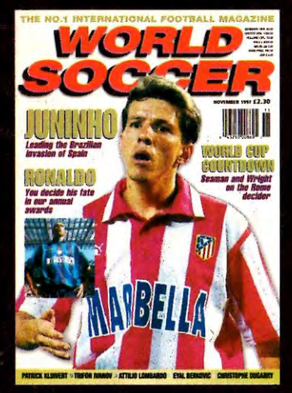

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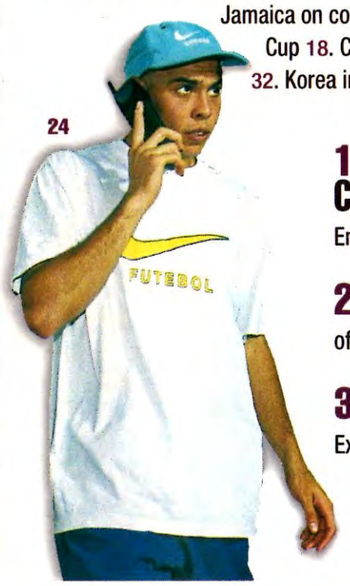

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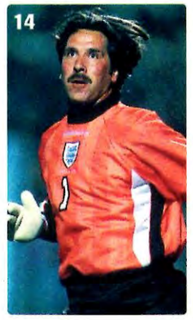

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Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY

Two's company – what, again?

A SKY Broadcasting insider tells me that the company's new, twice-weekly serial *Dream Team* is "an entertaining football soap opera starring Ron Atkinson". So, it's a repeat?

The Bung Brigade

FA's long-awaited inquiry is the lion that roared...just like a mouse

THE BUNGS inquiry was a lion which roared like a mouse. But then, we never expected anything else. Rick Parry and Co worked diligently in their search for corruption, but, like any other football inquiry by UEFA or FIFA, the FA commission lacked the vital judicial powers through which the 'real' police can bring the guilty to justice.

So don't hold your breath awaiting a disciplinary crackdown. But do not be deceived, either, by the attempts of some of the central characters to rewrite the inquiry's verdict. The main cases were these:

Case 1 – Paul Gascoigne's transfer from Tottenham to Lazio for £5.5million in July 1991: Spurs' chief executive, Terry Venables, employed his restaurateur friend Gino Santin for the sum of £200,000 as go-between. Conclusion: Spurs breached FA rules barring payments to agents for arranging transfers.

Scrutinised...Sheringham's transfer to Spurs was under the FA spotlight

Case 2 – Klas Ingesson's transfer from PSV to Sheffield Wednesday in September 1994: PSV admitted £100,000 of the fee was paid to agent Dennis Roach, who said he may have paid the player's agent, Vincenzo Morabito. Conclusion: concern registered about evident conflicts of interest.

Case 3 – Andrei Kanchelskis' £1.2m move from Shaktyor Donetsk to Manchester United: Norwegian agent Rune Hauge received £35,000 for help in this deal and United's purchase of Peter Schmeichel. Conclusion: the payment to Hauge breached FA regulations.

Case 4 – The transfers to English clubs of Patrick Andersson, Henning Berg, Ronnie Eklund, Jan-Aage Fjortoft, Jakob Kjeldbjerg, Henrik Larsen, Oyvind Leonhardsen, Tore Pedersen, Michael Stensgaard, Frank Strandli, Claus Thomsen and Jonas Wirmola: evidence was uncovered of payments to an agent in breach of FA regulations. Conclusion: no evidence of a breach of regulations by any ENGLISH club involved.

Case 5 – Teddy Sheringham's move from Nottingham Forest to Tottenham in August 1992: Venables approved a £50,000 payment to agent Frank McLintock to "secure Sheringham's services". The report adds that "a substantial part" was later received by Brian Clough's Forest assistant, Ronnie Fenton. Conclusion: Venables did not benefit from the payment.

Case 6 – Alf-Inge Haaland's transfer from Bryne to Nottingham Forest in January 1994 for £350,000: Bryne collected a fee of £150,000 though Forest paid £350,000. Two months later Fenton, having left Forest by then, received £45,000 from agent Hauge. Conclusion: Fenton is held to have struck a deal with Hauge; Clough did not receive any money.

Case 7 – Arsenal's purchases of Anders Limpar, Pal Lydersen and John Jensen: Arsenal's chief scout, Steve Burtenshaw, had an agreement with Hauge which netted him 25 per cent of any fee Hauge received for the completion of transfers which Burtenshaw recommended. He received £70,000 in total. Conclusion: Burtenshaw knowingly received payments for transfer information.

Case 8 – Nottingham Forest's signings of Anthony Loughlan and Neil Lyne, formerly with Leicester, in August 1989: a £15,000 deal was originally agreed but subsequently Fenton came to an arrangement for the fee to be doubled and the difference returned to him. Conclusion: a total of £61,000 was eventually paid by Forest and evidence was found of "a fraudulent arrangement by which Mr Clough and/or Mr Fenton acquired a substantial sum of money for the two transfers".

The general conclusion was that English football was prey to financial customs and practices which did not serve the game's best interests.

Venables claimed he had been exonerated and counter-attacked the Labour MP Kate Hoey on the basis that her statement in the House of Commons on the bungs issue had cost him the England job. However, the notion that the conservative FA would be swayed by the claims of a then Opposition MP one late night at Westminster hardly bear scrutiny.

And then Nottingham Forest had the nerve to complain that Anderlecht "undermined the whole moral and ethical base of football".

Takes one to know one.

A change of style

HAVE YOU noticed how the balance of concern has changed with regard to drugs? Dope testing was initiated to try to prevent players gaining an unfair advantage through the use of illegal stimulants.

Not that there is any evidence it ever did anyone any good.

Scotland flopped famously at the 1978 World Cup despite Willie Johnston's cold cure. And East Germany, for all the scientific perfection of their doping programme as applied in the swimming pool and athletics track, reached the World Cup finals just once in 40 years (in 1974) and took home just one European club trophy (the Cup-winners Cup, also in 1974).

No – today's dope-testers are catching players guilty 'only', it seems, of taking what are known as 'social drugs' – cannabis, cocaine. Although they may be listed on the sporting ban lists as stimulants, they are taken away from the pitch for the opposite reason.

Doesn't that tell you much about how the status – add lifestyles – of football and footballers has changed down the years?

Cynical, or what?

DRUGS in football remains a live subject as Diego Maradona plays on from week to week, game to game, with a judge's permission, while Argentine football wonders how it can let its greatest crowd-puller off the hook.

Or am I being too cynical?

This, remember, is the football federation presided over by Julio Grondona, who just happens to be FIFA's senior vice-president and Joao Havelange's annointed candidate as his FIFA presidential successor next year. I have always believed that, in elections, people vote against something or some philosophy rather than in favour of one. In which case, Sweden's Lennart Johansson must be ever more clearly installed as favourite now that UEFA has formally endorsed his candidacy.

Johansson threw out a gesture of goodwill towards the rest of the worldwide constituency when he revealed his volte-face on the subject of a projected world club championship. When the idea was originally canvassed from FIFA-Haus in Zurich by president Havelange and general secretary Sepp Blatter, it was treated with contempt by most UEFA delegates.

Too many matches already...a rival for our lucrative Champions League and its multinational sponsors...FIFA meddling where it had no jurisdiction – these were some of the comments.

But Johansson revealed he has had a change of heart at UEFA's recent gathering in Helsinki. It would "only" be for a couple of weeks at the end of the season "every couple of years".

The eight clubs would be the champions of all the six geographical confederations, plus the League champions of the host nation, plus the holders of the Intercontinental Club Cup played every year in Tokyo.

So far, so good. But what about the club champions who miss out every other year? Why not incorporate them as well? Then we can have 16 teams in the club finals instead of eight. More matches, more television money...

Oh dear, there I go again.

Grounds for concern

FRANZ BECKENBAUER believes the spectacular Olympic Stadium in Munich is finished as far as football is concerned. Beckenbauer, the president of Bayern Munich, has told fellow directors and officials to find the finance to build a new 80,000-capacity stadium on the outskirts of the Bavarian capital.

A Bayern spokesman said: "It's virtually certain that Franz will stay on as Bayern president as long as he is confident he can take the club forward. It's no secret that one of his dreams is a home we can call our own."

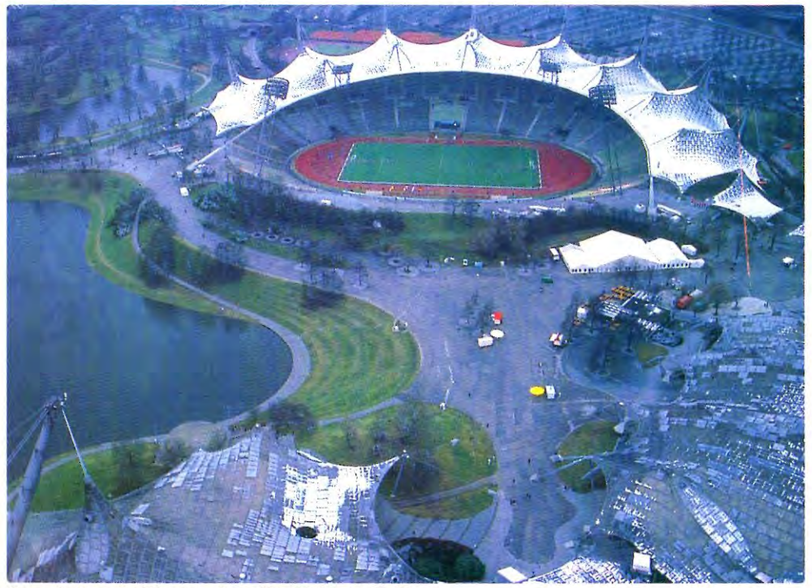
Almost all German clubs play in municipally-owned stadia but Beckenbauer – co-opted on to the committee seeking to beat off England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup – has been impressed by the great strides made in stadia redevelopment in England over the past five years.

He believes that, in the present financial climate, private investment and/or ownership is the only way German football can raise the cash necessary to bring their stadia up to World Cup standard.

Bayern have grown increasingly disaffected with the Olympic Stadium, which has been their home ever since the 1972 Games. The combination of an athletics track around the pitch plus the gentle rake of the seating means that fans feel they are too far from the action – and the players feel the lack of atmosphere.

A further, significant problem concerning the stadium is financial and concerns both the rental arrangement and restrictions on promotional opportunities.

Bayern have proposed to Munich city council a major redevelopment during which the pitch would be lowered and extra seating areas brought forward over the running track. But the eventual cost of all this would be not short of the sum required to build an entirely new stadium.



Nice roof, shame about the atmosphere...Munich's Olympic Stadium

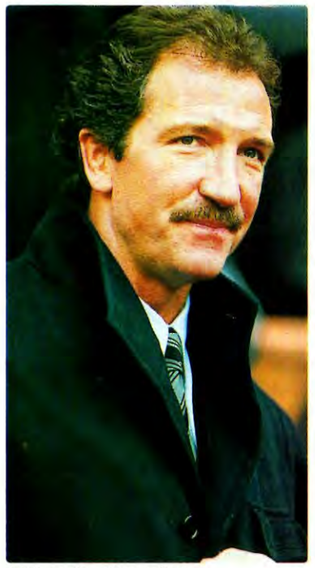
Begging to differ

KEVIN KEEGAN in London looks like a fish out of water. There is no disputing his achievements as a player or manager. But Liverpool, Hamburg and even Newcastle were all clubs with their own in-built momentum. Can the same be said of Fulham?

And what of Micky Adams, cast adrift to make way for King Kev? Is he really, as one paper described him, the unluckiest manager in the country? With a £300,000 pay-off?

Oddly, Adams has become better known through his dismissal than through his modest success in bringing Fulham up from the Third Division last term.

That won't do him any harm when the next big job comes up.



Job insecurity...Graeme Souness

Souness struggles

BY THE time you read this, Graeme Souness may already be out of work. He thought he could make a difference to historic Torino, rebuilding a great old club out of the rubble of Serie B.

All in vain. Torino, like historic old Genoa, the first champions of Italy, are struggling in the basement of the division.

Genoa have already come close to sacking their coach. Giuseppe Salvemini was given the Italian equivalent of a P45 after Genoa were beaten in the Italian Cup first round.

Within hours the directors had had second thoughts. They summoned Salvemini in and handed him his job back.

He won't be as lucky again – and nor will Souness.

Stick tight, UEFA

ANDERLECHT have been banned for a year by UEFA from the next time they qualify for a European club competition.

Their crime was involvement in match-fixing in both 1984 (the notorious UEFA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest) and 1983 (an early-round tie against Banik Ostrava).

It seems right and proper that the club, however belatedly, should pay some sort of penalty – though confusion reigns even here.

At first, UEFA president Lennart Johansson said that Anderlecht could not be punished because a 10-year statute of limitations had expired – partly because the relevant papers from the Belgian federation "had gone missing".

Luc Misson, the Belgian lawyer who wrought havoc in the corridors of power through his work on behalf of Jean-Marc Bosman, believes that UEFA's subsequent change of heart and punishment of Anderlecht would not stand up in a court of law.

Maybe, maybe not.

The article in UEFA's statutes which covers "unforeseen circumstances" offers a catch-all option to the executive committee to deal with any such matter in whichever way it chooses.

Here's hoping UEFA sticks to its guns.

Contenders *(clockwise from above)*: Ronaldo, Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola, Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, Youri Djorkaeff of Inter and European champions Borussia Dortmund

Treble top

Your chance to name the big three in the ***WORLD SOCCER*** *awards*

CAN Ronaldo retain the individual title or will he lose it to one of the many challengers? Which of the national and club contenders will head the poll for the top team? And who among the many candidates will emerge as the No. 1 manager?

You can have your say in deciding the winners of the three prestigious *WORLD SOCCER* awards, now in their 16th year and – like the game they reflect – growing in popularity.

Ronaldo, the young superstar of Barcelona and Brazil, was a narrow winner in the Player of the Year event 12 months ago, with Alan Shearer of Newcastle and England in second place.

Injury keeps Shearer out of contention, but there are plenty of others in the chase, with Ronaldo again the frontrunner.

Not only strikers such as Gianfranco Zola of Chelsea, Vieri of Atletico Madrid, Hakan of Galatasaray and Djalminha of Palmeiras, but defenders (Sammer of Borussia Dortmund and the deadball specialist Roberto Carlos of Real Madrid to name but two) and midfielders in abundance (notably Seedorf of Real Madrid and Holland and Djorkaeff of Inter and France).

And could this be the time for the first goalkeeper to take the title? If so, Jose Luis Chilavert of Velez Sarsfeld and Paraguay must be a contender.

Ronaldo, however, has a chance to become the fourth double winner, after Michel Platini (1984 and 85), Ruud Gullit (1987 and 89), and Marco Van Basten (1988 and 92).

The chase for places among the qualifiers for next year's World Cup brings many managers to the front, and so too does the relentless hunt for domestic success.

Alex Ferguson of Manchester United, who has been close before, is a front runner, along with major figures in continental Europe and South America such as Ottmar Hitzfeld of Champions League-winners Borussia Dortmund, Marcello Lippi of Italian giants Juventus, Fabio Capelli, now back at Milan after winning the Spanish League title with Real Madrid, and Paulo Autuori, who took Cruzeiro of Brazil to the Libertadores Cup.

As for Team of the Year, Borussia's Dortmund's European success is bound to attract votes, as should Cruzeiro's Libertadores victory.

Elsewhere the hunt for World Cup places has produced some notable contenders, such as high-scoring Romania in Europe, Paraguay and Colombia in South America, Nigeria (who followed their Olympic title with an unbeaten qualifying campaign), and South Africa (now in the last 32 only five years after emerging from the dark cloud of apartheid). Add Australia, now managed by Terry Venables, and you have a worldwide spectrum.

The choice is yours. Name any player you want to name, any manager, any team – they needed be any mentioned above. But only on the accompanying form, in CAPITAL letters, and do not forget your name and address.

● You can also record your vote via the Internet at www.soccernet.com.

Votes are acceptable ONLY on this form (or a photocopy) complete with your name and address. Use CAPITAL letters and send to:
1997 World Soccer awards,
24th floor, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS, England.
Voting closes on December 3, 1997.

Player _____

Team _____

Manager _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

COUNTRY _____

NOV

Back from the dead

Keir Radnedge on the amazing recovery from heart surgery of Nwankwo Kanu

Heart of the matter...Kanu is back playing for Inter and Nigeria

So FIFA has decided that Ronaldo is worth just £1.5million above the £18million it cost the Brazilian to buy out his contract with Barcelona. Internazionale president Massimo Moratti could barely stifle his delight. But all the fuss around the Brazilian obscured an even more remarkable human achievement within the Milan club: the return of Nkwankwo Kanu.

In the summer of last year, the 21-year-old Nigerian was on top of the world. He had won an Olympic Games gold medal with Nigeria and was on his way to being acclaimed as African Footballer of the Year.

Then, within weeks of his £3million arrival at Internazionale from Ajax Amsterdam, Kanu was diagnosed as suffering from congenital heart disease. Kanu was devastated. Inter were furious. Ajax – whose doctors had been unaware of the problem – were highly embarrassed.

"At this moment," said Inter president Massimo Moratti, "Kanu's career is over. But that is of far less importance than that we get him well to resume a normal life, whether he may ever play football again or not."

Inter sent Kanu to senior heart specialists in Europe and the United States. Last November he underwent a successful operation to repair a defective heart valve. Then there were six long months of convalescence in which Kanu started walking then, eventually, running. It was another month before his doctors allowed him to kick a football and another month before he could resume the lightest of training.

'I have completed the challenge I set myself. I am playing for my club, I am playing for my country. The next goal is this: to prove I am worthy to play for them'

– Nwankwo Kanu

But another month, and he was given the all-clear to rejoin the rest of Inter's highly expensive squad in pre-season training.

Ultimately, it was time for him to step out into the limelight. Kanu played the last 10 minutes of a pre-season friendly against Manchester United in Milan. The 50,000 Inter fans present in the Stadio Meazza at San Siro gave him a standing ovation. It was his first match action since August 24 last year.

"That was a dream come true," said tearful Kanu afterwards. "I'll never forget the welcome back the fans gave me. It made me feel the nightmare was at an end."

Two days later Kanu underwent another fitness test to reassure Inter, their doctors and insurers, that he was up to both the physical and mental rigours of top-level, high-profile professional football. He was given the all-clear to join Ronaldo, Argentina's Diego Simeone and Javier Zanetti and Chile's Ivan Zamorano as a football equal once more.

On August 17, Kanu returned to play for Nigeria in a World Cup qualifying match away to Guinea in Conakry. Again he made his return as a substitute, playing the last 25 minutes of the second half in a 1-0 win.

"Now I am home," said Kanu. "I have completed the challenge I set myself. I am playing for my club, I am playing for my country. The next goal is this: to prove I am worthy to play for them."

Beyond that, Kanu will aim higher. Inter want him to help Ronaldo regain them the Italian League title they have not won for eight years. Nigeria want him to lead them into next year's World Cup finals in France – and go beyond the second round at which they fell in the United States three years ago.

Kanu says: "I am optimistic. I still have a lot of work to achieve my full potential. After all, although I have been playing in Europe for three years I am still very young in football terms. But I believe that in another couple of weeks I'll be fully ready. Inter can become one of the world's great clubs again. I will be there."

Zamorano and Italian forwards Maurizio Ganz and Marco Branca will give Kanu plenty of competition for the other striking place alongside Ronaldo.

But that challenge is minor compared to what has happened over the past year to the man who said: "I feel I have come back from the dead."

Eyes on the ball...but Maradona, in action against Velez Sarsfield in September, is too often looking for something else

Diego's uppers and downers

Another amazing month in the life of a flawed genius

THE TRIALS and tribulations of Diego Armando Maradona continue. Even by his own standards, it has been an eventful time.

Despite widespread predictions that his career is over after failing a third drugs test, Maradona continues to confound his critics, vowing to carry on one day, and quit the next.

August 24, 1997. Maradona fails dope test after 4-2 win for Boca Juniors against his first club, Argentinos Juniors, and faces his third ban from football. In 1991, Maradona tested positive for cocaine after helping Napoli beat Bari 1-0, and was banned by FIFA for 15 months. In 1994 World Cup, Maradona tested positive for a "cocktail of stimulants" after Argentina's first round win over Nigeria and received second FIFA ban for 15 months.

After the announcement of the dope-test failure, Maradona's manager, Guillermo Coppola, himself jailed on cocaine charges in 1996, says: "It can't be. There must have been a mistake," and claims the result may be due to a spiked drink. A second test is required.

September 4. Second test is positive. Maradona's lawyers demand a DNA check to verify the urine tested was Maradona's.

September 5. Maradona ordered to appear before the AFA's disciplinary committee. "I will always test positive for drugs, because I will always speak up [about my enemies]," says Maradona on Argentinan TV. "If I had taken cocaine I wouldn't have gone to the match. Cocaine doesn't help but rather hinders you on the pitch – I know I would see four balls and eight defenders."

September 6. Temporarily suspended for failing the dope test but returns to training with Boca Juniors.

September 12. Wins the right to carry on playing pending a disciplinary inquiry into the dope-test failure.

September 16. President Carlos Menem praises Maradona's performance in a 0-0 draw with Velez Sarsfield.

September 17. Prison is a possibility after Argentina's Appeal Court turns down his appeal challenging a four-year prison sentence imposed by a provincial court after a shooting incident in Buenos Aires in 1994 when Maradona injured four reporters. Maradona's offer to do community service instead of a prison sentence is rejected by the Provincial judge. He can appeal against the decision and says he will give up football if his father asks him to do so.

September 18. Threatens to retire after next Boca game and live in Cuba. "I'd go for Fidel, the climate and because I get on very well with the Cubans."

September 21. Plays 89 minutes for Boca in 2-1 win over San Lorenzo – then changes his mind about making it his last game. "I make this decision for my father and for the fans of Boca."

September 24. In Chile for a South American Supercup match against Chilean champions Colo Colo. Maradona says he "and soccer players around the world support the Chilean players who are striking for better working conditions. Nobody should dismiss the possibility of this turning into a South American strike."

September 25. Substituted at half-time as Boca lose 2-1 to Colo Colo.

The next move? Over to you, Diego.

Kevin Ebbutt

Split personalities

Gavin Hamilton on the contrasting fortunes of former Juventus team-mates Attilio Lombardo and Fabrizio Ravanelli

FLASHBACK to May 1996. Juventus have just beaten Ajax on penalties in the European Champions Cup Final in Rome. Fabrizio Ravanelli, scorer of Juve's goal in normal time, is one of the heroes of the night. His team-mate, Attilio Lombardo, joins in the celebrations but knows that after a season sidelined through injury, his contribution to Juve's success has been minimal.

A few weeks later, Ravanelli was on his way to Middlesbrough after Juventus found their £7million offer too good to refuse. The silver-haired striker did not want to leave Turin, but his wage demands of £42,000 a week did not deter Boro's Bryan Robson, as Ravanelli had hoped. So Teesside it was.

Lombardo stayed in Turin after a move to Sheffield Wednesday fell through when they refused to meet his personal terms, so he knuckled down to the task of winning a place in Juve's line-up and earning a recall to the national team. Meanwhile Ravanelli, despite playing for a struggling team in England, kept his place in Arrigo Sacchi's squad.

Fast forward to today. Ravanelli is stranded in the no man's land of international football. After relegation with Middlesbrough, the White Feather became a victim of his own greed and Boro's determination to recoup their money. Everton were prepared to meet Boro's asking price, but not Ravanelli's demands – £50,000 a week, regular plane tickets to Italy and, bizarrely, payment of his gas bill.

Whether Ravanelli's excessive personal demands were designed to deter interest from Premier League clubs we will never know. But his eventual transfer to Marseille (for £5m and wages of £25,000 a week) came too late for Cesare Maldini. Sacchi's successor as Italy's national coach was not interested in a player who appeared keener to feather his own nest than to assist the *Azzurri*. Hence Ravanelli's exclusion from Italy's squad against Georgia in the recent World Cup qualifier.

One man who made the starting line-up in Tbilisi was Lombardo, who surprised everybody last summer by passing up on a Champions League campaign with Juve for a Premier League survival battle with newcomers to the English elite Crystal Palace.

The most famous bald head in European football had played his way back into the Italian national side and the Juventus first team last season. But with the arrival over the summer of Fabio Pecchia and the return from injury of Antonio Conte, 31-year-old Lombardo knew competition for midfield places would be tough in Turin.

Despite the doubts that his motives for moving to England were financial, Lombardo quickly impressed, scoring important goals against Everton and Leeds as Palace made a confident start to the season.

While Ravanelli languished in Boro's reserves, waiting for his agents to set up a move back to the big time, Lombardo, after so much time spent in the shadows of others at Juventus, revelled in the attention.

Like Ravanelli, Lombardo joined a club desperate to establish itself in the Premier League after years of yo-yoing between the divisions. Like Ravanelli, Lombardo joined on personal terms far superior to those of his new team-mates. But unlike Ravenelli, he joined a London club, and that has helped him settle in quickly.

"That Palace are a London club helps, though I want to make it clear I'm not here as a tourist," says Lombardo. "I'm here to help this team."

Nevertheless, the presence in London of former Sampdoria team-mate Gianluca Vialli and compatriots Gianfanco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo was an important factor. "I spoke to Vialli before I came here," he says, "and I also had a good chat with Roberto Di Matteo at Le Tournoi in June. My Italian friends are important but I don't want to lean on them too much when I'm here. I want to lean on my team-mates instead."

Lombardo says he was keen to experience Premier League football. "English football is different and is always watched by Italian footballers," he says. "On Saturday nights before big games in Italy we always watch English football in our hotel rooms. Everybody follows it."

'On Saturday nights before big games in Italy we always gather round and watch English football in our hotel rooms' – Lombardo

Diplomatic words for his new audience, but he knows that he will ultimately be judged by his performances on the pitch. So far, he has not been found wanting. The biggest problem has been the gap in technique between himself and his Palace colleagues.

Where last season Lombardo swapped passes with Didier Deschamps, Alessandro Del Piero and Zinedine Zidane, he now finds himself linking up with Bruce Dyer and Paul Warhurst. The difference in class has been there for all to see.

Palace's signing of Lombardo says a great deal about the changing nature of English football. In previous years, the club looked no further than the lower reaches of the Football League, hoping to unearth rough diamonds who could be turned into polished jewels and sold on at a profit. Some (Chris Armstrong, David Hopkin) were successful. Others (Andy Preece, Marco Gabbiadini) were not.

Until very recently, Palace manager Steve Coppell was highly sceptical of foreign signings. He admits the purchase of Lombardo was a gamble, but at a transfer fee of £1million, he could not resist. "What do I do?" asks Coppell. "Ignore the bargains and get relegated?"

Coppell says that two years ago Palace could get by with 11 average players and a system. That's not possible now as every club has quality players.

"The top seven Premiership clubs last season were the ones who paid the best wages and had the best players," says Coppell. "The bottom five paid the least." Are you listening, Bryan Robson?

Distracted...Problems in his private life have dogged Kluivert off the field

Still on trial

Wayward Dutch striker must stay in line if he is to win people over

HOLLAND striker Patrick Kluivert turned 21 in July, but the summer was generally not a happy one for him, even though he is earning huge sums with Milan and is a key figure in his country's World Cup planning.

The reason, of course, was the notorious court case involving Kluivert and a 20-year-old woman he met in an Amsterdam disco. He had visited the city with Milan's blessing while injured.

She claimed that he had raped her, he denied it, and the case eventually was dismissed for lack of evidence, but the controversy has not gone away.

The woman told the court she left the disco with Kluivert and three of his friends, and was forced to have sex with them. They claimed she consented. Kluivert allegedly offered her money to say nothing about the matter, but she refused to accept it and went to the police.

The huge publicity surrounding the case has reflected badly on the player – especially when it emerged that, at the time of the incident, his girlfriend was in hospital awaiting the birth of their first child, which has since arrived.

There was another allegation, as well, with Kluivert apparently using his fame and position to persuade some people to drop charges against one of his friends who had been involved in a fight.

The public was divided over the issue, but many people felt national coach Guus Hiddink should not pick Kluivert again, even though the next match Holland faced was a vital World Cup qualifier with Belgium.

General opinion was that a player who caused a scandal should not represent his country – and people recalled that two years previously, Kluivert had been involved in a fatal road accident and sentenced to prison, but the punishment had later been reduced to a fine and community service.

'In everybody's life things have happened that should not have happened. Have people forgotten how happy Patrick has made them with his goals?' – Clarence Seedorf

He also committed another traffic offence on the day of the victim's funeral, when he was seen to drive through a red light.

Though Kluivert has had difficulty dealing with the fame and fortune his football success has brought, Hiddink remains firmly of the view that only his on-field performances are important as far as the national team is concerned.

"A private life matters only as much as it affects a man's play and the team's performance," he says. "With Kluivert, this has not happened."

The entire Holland squad backed this view and Kluivert played against the Belgians, after saying at a packed media conference: "I made a mistake, but we must keep ourbusiness and private lives separate."

His great friend and team-mate, Clarence Seedorf, told the meeting: "In everybody's life things happen that should not have happened. Have people forgotten how happy Patrick has made them with his goals – particularly in the Champions League final against Milan?"

Kluivert scored in that 3-1 win over Belgium to put Holland in pole position for France 98 and at last, the headlines screaming his name were referring to his skill.

But the slightest indiscretion in future....

Klaas-Jan Droppert

FIFA World Rankings

(rankings as of September 17, 1997)

1	Brazil
2	Germany
3	Romania
4	Holland
5	Denmark
6	Spain
7	England
8	Norway
9	Colombia
10	Argentina
11	Mexico
12	Italy
13	Bulgaria
14	Czech Republic
15	Morocco
16	Russia
17	France
18	Japan
19	Zambia
20	Tunisia
21	Sweden
22	Slovakia
23	Bolivia
24	Portugal
25	South Africa
26	Austria
27	Scotland
28	Paraguay
29	Chile
30	Ecuador
31	Egypt
32	USA
33	Croatia
34	Peru
35	South Korea
36	Australia
37	Yugoslavia
38	Saudi Arabia
39	Turkey
40	Jamaica
41	Greece
42	Republic of Ireland
43	Lithuania
44	Cameroon
45	Ghana
46	Ivory Coast
47	Uruguay
48	Belgium
49	Kuwait
50	Poland
51	Algeria
52	Ukraine
53	Iran
54	Israel
55	Costa Rica
56	Angola
57	Honduras
58	China
59	Canada
60	Trinidad & Tobago
61	Finland
62	Gabon
63	Nigeria
64	Guinea
65	Switzerland
66	Zimbabwe
67	UAE
68	Mozambique
69	Latvia
70	Thailand
71	Hungary
72	Northern Ireland
73	El Salvador
74	Senegal
75	Iraq
76	Togo
77	Mali
78	DR Congo
79	Sierra Leone
80	FYR Macedonia
81	Cyprus
82	Uzbekistan
83	Iceland
84	Namibia
85	Qatar
86	Oman
87	Lebanon
88	Malaysia
89	Malawi
90	Guatemala
91	Liberia
92	Slovenia
93	Tanzania
94	Georgia
95	Uganda
96	Congo
97	Syria
98	Wales
99	Kenya
100	Sudan
101	Cuba
102	Estonia
103	Bosnia-Herzegovina
104	Armenia
105	Burkina Faso
106	Belarus
107	Grenada
108	Barbados
109	Indonesia
110	Venezuela
111	Panama
112	Singapore
113	Bahrain
114	Tajikistan
115	New Zealand
	Albania
117	Faroe Islands
118	St Vincent/Grenadines
119	India
120	Vietnam
121	Kazakhstan
122	Azerbaijan
123	Jordan
124	Ethiopia
125	Moldova
126	Myanmar
127	Malta
128	St Kitts & Nevis
129	Yemen
130	Hong Kong
131	Solomon Islands
132	Mauritania
133	Turkmenistan
	Haiti
135	Luxembourg
136	Benin
137	Sri Lanka
138	Dominica
139	Kyrgyzstan
140	Bangladesh
141	St Lucia
142	Gambia
143	Dominican Rep
144	Fiji
145	Surinam
146	Niger
147	Guinea-Bissau
148	Mauritius
149	Burundi
150	Nepal
151	Taiwan
152	Dutch Antilles
153	Liechtenstein
154	Lesotho
155	Antigua
156	Macao
157	Cayman Islands
158	North Korea
159	Tahiti
160	Laos
161	Botswana
162	Madagascar
163	Puerto Rico
164	Papua New Guinea
165	Guyana
166	Cape Verde Islands
167	San Marino
168	Tonga
169	Swaziland
170	Rwanda
171	Libya
172	Bermuda
173	Pakistan
174	Philippines
175	Aruba
176	Belize
177	Brunei
178	British Virgin Is
179	Cambodia
180	Western Samoa
181	Seychelles
182	Nicaragua
183	Maldives Republic
184	Vanuatu
185	Andorra
186	Somalia
187	Central Africa
188	Djibouti
189	Anguilla
	Chad
	Cook Islands
	Guam

Southern stars... Freddy Rincon (above) and Pablo Aimar

Libero

Double trouble

Spotlight on two very different South Americans

RINCON

Freddy the First

TO WATCH Freddy Rincon is to see a potted history of Colombian football. There is the short passing, pass-and-move style of the Argentinians, whose players and coaches did so much to develop the game in Colombia. Then there are the flicks of the feet, gyrations of the body and the sheer exuberance of the Brazilian school, a big influence on many Colombians and on Freddy Rincon in particular.

Like his boyhood idol Cerezo, Rincon glides through the midfield, caressing the ball with a lightness of touch that makes it seem that he has hands in place of feet. There is a palpable sense of fun in his game. "If I no longer felt that," he explains. "I would have to stop playing. It wouldn't be the same."

Perhaps it is not surprising that the European game was not to his liking. "There is a lot of pressure there – it's the football of results. You can't enjoy yourself on the field as much as in Brazil," says Rincon, now with Corinthians of Sao Paulo after spells in Italy and Spain.

With Napoli he played in attack. "I wasn't well used," he recalls, and with the club having financial problems he was sold to Real Madrid. The move did not work out. "Maybe there was some racism – I was the only black player there. Valdano, the coach, was under a lot of pressure.

"He wanted to drop some players who weren't doing well, such as Michel. But he was a symbol of the team, and there were a lot of problems.

"Valdano protected me, and explained that it was hard to put me in the team. When he left, Artur Iglesias took over saying that I was the best player he had. But he never made me first choice. So I couldn't show my worth.

"I don't see my time in Madrid as a failure – I didn't have the opportunities."

Rincon, who has seven brothers and one sister, is hoping for a more successful return to the old continent now Colombia have booked a place in next year's World Cup. He also is keen to erase the memory of USA 94, when his timid displays were a symbol of the team's inability to cope with the expectations placed on them.

He is far happier to cast his mind back four years earlier to Italia 90, the tournament where he made his name. In particular there is his goal against West Germany – "a moment I'll never forget" – which came with Colombia only seconds from elimination.

After spending almost the entire game bewildered by Valderrama and Rincon, the Germans took a late lead. Colombia's midfield duo responded by conjuring a stunning series of passes which culminated in Rincon's delicately stroked equaliser.

Lovers of good football will be hoping for more of the same in France next year – even though Rincon and his midfield colleagues, Leonel Alvarez and Carlos Valderrama, will then have a combined age of almost 100!

Tim Vickery

AIMAR

Diego the Second

ARGENTINA must have known what they were doing when they relieved Esteban Cambiasso of the No 10 shirt he had worn in the South American Under-20 championships in Chile last winter, and handed it to Pablo Aimar of River Plate.

The gesture was no reflection on the ability of the fair-haired Cambiasso, a versatile defender or midfielder destined to go on to great things with Real Madrid. But he is not a successor to Diego Maradona, the most celebrated wearer of that blue and white No 10, as he would be the first to admit. It is in other areas of the pitch where his attributes, his tackling and his fortitude, excel.

In the Under-20 World Youth Cup in Malaysia, Aimar exchanged the No 11 shirt for the No 10 while Cambiasso looked every bit a genuine, resilient No 5. Neither player disappointed but it was Aimar's contribution to Argentina's third triumph at the tournament, and the inevitable comparisons with Maradona – not all of them positive – that provoked most debate afterwards.

Argentina naturally trust that once Aimar completes his studies in commerce at the Institute of River Plate, he will rise to maturity with neither the stimulation of cocaine nor the gamesmanship practised by Maradona. Two yellow cards in Malaysia were not promising signs.

Maradona became an addict years after he had inspired his country's initial success at World Youth Cup level in 1979.

Aimar is an exemplary passer of the ball, and he bewilders opponents with a deceptive body swerve before accelerating smoothly away from them. He has a fine touch that brings bouncing balls under instant control.

"He was the only Argentinian I didn't know how to stop," admitted the Australian coach, Les Scheinflug. "That's why we went back in numbers to defend."

Against England Aimar was brought down for a penalty, struck away by Roman Riquelme, and then demonstrated the extent of his rapport with Romeo. The bewitching double exchange of passes between the pair was the tournament's highlight. It tore England's defence apart, leaving Aimar to tap in.

Aimar then provided the pass from which substitute Martin Perezlindo completed Argentina's 2-0 win over Brazil in the quarter-final, and played his part in the 1-0 semi-final win over Ireland, only to find himself on the bench again when the final began.

Coach Jose Pekerman went as far as to say: "Pablo is simply marvellous. He is very good on the ball and can win any match for us."

Argentina had beaten Uruguay 2-1 and Aimar's truncated appearance in the final did not prevent him from coming third in the voting to find the tournament's outstanding player. For many, he was far and away the first choice.

Nicholas Harling

Football floods...Kaucuk Opava's stadium was badly damaged by the rain

Counting the cost

THIS SUMMER's flooding in Central Europe caused billions of pounds of damage to towns and farm land, mostly in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany, and killed nearly 100 people.

The massive amount of water after days of torrential rain showed no mercy to football clubs either. One of the first clubs affected in the Czech Republic was Kaucuk Opava, who had just failed to qualify for the UEFA Cup. Three club officials were trapped at the club's ground for three days, with striker Roman Hendrych and his wife. "Our car was full of water and we could not leave," he said.

When the flood levels fell, two carp – fresh water fish that are a part of the Czech traditional dinner – were found in the changing rooms.

Sigma Olomouc, in the Moravia region, had their ground flooded so badly that the water level reached the crossbars.

In Hradec Kralove, in the north-east, club coach Jaroslav Hrebik did not pay too much attention to a stream of water that came through one of the gates, but eventually had to help evacuate as much stuff as he could. Striker Daniel Kaplan had left his car outside the ground, and had it washed away.

International forward Radek Drulak had to leave his house in Olomouc with a few possessions. "I could not estimate the material damage but what makes me most sad is the loss of my newspaper cuttings," he said.

"There were valuable reminders and nobody can return them now."

The Czech FA opened an account (No 106 84 004/600) at Prague's Prvni Mestska Bank, in order to help the affected clubs and individuals. Both Sparta and Slavia put one million Czech crowns into the account. Sparta even sent a trailer of bottled drinking water into the areas that suffered most.

Pavel Horak

Flashback

In these days of Bosman, agents and stratoscopic wages, it is reassuring to look back and discover that all the same questions were being asked more than a quarter of a century ago. Witness the November 1971 issue of World Soccer. Cover star: Steve Kember, recently transferred from Crystal Palace to Chelsea for a cool £170,000, a figure that today wouldn't buy you Ronaldo's left toe. The coverline? 'TRANSFERS. Has football gone mad?'

Same story...only the prices have changed

Libero SHORTS

Spot the difference

TWO minor clubs set a record for a major competition when Marlow met Littlehampton in the first qualifying round of this season's FA Cup.

After their second 2-2 draw, the teams embarked on a penalty shoot-out, which only ended at 10.25 pm when Littlehampton goalkeeper Mark Howells shot wide – the first miss after all the previous 21 kicks had gone in.

This equalled the existing English record, when Aldershot beat Fulham 11-10 in the Freight Rover Trophy in 1987, but on that occasion seven other kicks were missed.

The highest shoot-out in international football, curiously enough, is 11-10, when North Korea beat Hong Kong in the 1975 Asian Cup. The record for a club match was set in in Argentina in 1988, with Argentinos Juniors beating Racing Club 20-19.

O-O-O dear

MEMO to Channel 5 TV: if you are going to run any more programmes in the 100 Per Cent series of soccer quizzes, watch your spelling.

Middlesbrough appeared as Middlesborough three times in the latest effort, in which three Chelsea fans were asked 100 questions about the club. Even worse, the late, great Tommy Lawton was referred to as Lawson, and none of the three 'experts' spotted the boob.

This programme is publicised as the show with no host, the questions being asked by an off-screen voice. At this rate, it will soon be the show with no viewers.

How 'bout that?

TURKISH soccer, wracked by a long-running dispute over TV coverage, has found a man who seems capable of getting a grip on the problem. He's Abdullah Kigili, elected president of the Football Federation in succession to Senes Erzik, who resigned several weeks ago. Kigili is a former head of the Turkish Wrestling Federation.

Frontal assault

WELL, at least it makes a change from brewers and building societies – Italian porn star Jessica Rizzo is sponsoring a women's team from the Tuscan town of Montecatini. However, fans with a sensitive disposition need not cancel their season tickets. While Rizzo owns a satellite TV channel which broadcasts hard-core pornography, the shirt displays will be rather more discreet – they will merely be promoting the decoder cards needed to access the channel.

Small chance

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Joshua Barrow is likely to be receiving some intense coaching in the coming years – the reason being that his dad, Londoner Andrew Barrow, stands to win £100,000 if young Joshua plays football for England before his 30th birthday. But the £100 bet at 1,000-1 also factors in the possibility that Joshua's talents might not lie with soccer. Mr Barrow will collect if his son represents his country at rugby union, cricket, tennis or plays in golf's Ryder Cup.

Birthday surprise

WHEN lowly Manchester side Moss Amateurs have to resort to playing 60-year-olds to make up the numbers, you'd think times must be hard. Not so. In fact, the presence of a certain B. Charlton in the first XI for the game against Tintwistle Villa on October 11 is likely to make it an all-ticket affair. And it's not intended to be a cameo appearance either for England's record international goalscorer, who turns 60 on the day. "I want to play for 90 minutes and I feel well and fit enough to do it," said Charlton.

Peter Neish

Rome is where the heart is

Kevin Palmer finds two key England men in confident mood about qualification

EUROPE will not have witnessed a bigger game this year than Italy versus England in Rome. The winners of this little tussle in the Stadio Olimpico will certainly be placed among the front-runners to land the biggest prize of all next summer in France.

Italy's failure to win in Georgia last month and England's crushing 4-0 win over Moldova presented Glenn Hoddle's side with a golden opportunity to qualify automatically for France which few would have expected after Italy's 1-0 win at Wembley last February.

England, of course, have been through this before. In their effort to reach USA 94 they went to Holland for a group decider that ultimately ended in defeat, and the departure of manager Graham Taylor.

Goalkeeper David Seaman was beaten twice on that fateful night in Rotterdam, but he believes this England side will cope with such a test with far more success four years on. "You can understand people drawing comparisons between this team and the one that played against Holland," says the Arsenal man, who took over the captain's armband against Moldova. "But this is not the same England side that went to Rotterdam in 1993. Both on the pitch and in the dressing room, the atmosphere couldn't be more different. We are far better equipped to cope with the pressure of a situation like this now than we were then.

"I am convinced we will go through and then we have to believe that we can go on and do well next summer. Our results over the past few months have shown that we are not as far behind the rest of the world as some people like to think."

The confidence gained by England's impressive win over a full-strength Italian side during Le Tournoi in France last summer must be tempered by the absence of captain and inspiration Alan Shearer, who remains on the sidelines with a serious ankle injury.

Shearer's stand-in, Arsenal's record-breaking goalscorer Ian Wright, accepts that the loss of the Newcastle striker is a major blow. "I am an England fan first and a player second, so to lose Alan is tough for us, even if it means I have a better chance of getting into the side," says Wright, who scored twice against Moldova. "Alan is the main man, the top striker in England, and he has formed a great partnership with Teddy Sheringham, one that really puts the frighteners on other countries.

Saving grace...David Seaman

"But we have to go to Rome with a positive attitude. There is no point in thinking we only need a point because that is when you slip up. We have to try to win the game and I am convinced that is possible. We beat them during the summer without Alan Shearer and now we have to go and do it again.

"I get the shakes just thinking about the Italy game, it's going to be massive. But the prize at the end could not be greater. A place in the World Cup finals – and a lot of us have never been a part of something like that before."

The final furlong...

Gavin Hamilton on the climax of the France 98 qualifying campaign

AND then there were 14. In the past month, Spain, Bulgaria and Norway have joined Romania in booking their tickets for France 98.

Add the five African qualifiers, three South Americans (Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay), hosts France and holders Brazil, and almost half of the finalists were known before the final, decisive, round of European qualifiers.

Spain secured their qualification with a 2-1 away win over Slovakia. Even an unlikely defeat by the Faroe Islands in their final group match (coupled with a win for Yugoslavia) would still leave the Spanish as the best second-placed team. It has been a comfortable and unbeaten qualifying campaign for Javier Clemente's side, with Raul Gonzalez coming to the fore as the country's leading attacking light.

Bulgaria's qualification never seemed in doubt despite an early setback in Israel. Stoichkov is back in the side but is not the force he once was, a sentiment that could be applied to the whole team.

The Norwegian bandwagon continues to gain momentum. Norway never seemed in danger of missing out, and clinched qualification with a 5-0 win over disappointing Switzerland in Oslo. Coach Egil Olsen will retire after the finals, and a coaching job with a Western European club is now a strong possibility.

Holland, barring mathematical disasters, have also qualified. They would have to lose to Turkey by double figures, with Belgium running up a similar score against Wales, for the Dutch not to qualify.

Denmark ended Croatia's qualifying hopes with a 3-1 defeat. The Danes needed only a draw in Athens in the decider against second-placed Greece.

In Group Two there was the small matter of Italy versus England in Rome (see above).

Austria looked well-placed to qualify from Group Four, with Scotland needing to beat Latvia to have a very strong chance of qualifying automatically as the best second-placed team.

In Group Nine, Jurgen Klinsmann returned to goalscoring form for Germany against Armenia. The win left the Germans needing only a point from their final match against an Albanian team disrupted by recent political turmoil.

EUROPE
HOW THEY STAND

- 15 teams qualify
- France qualify as hosts
- 9 group winners and best runner-up qualify
- 8 other runners-up enter home-and-away play-offs on Oct 29 and Nov 15 1997; matches drawn by lots
- The best runner-up will be the team which tops a table of the 9 runners-up, determined by the following:

1. Points gained in matches against the teams coming top, third and fourth in respective groups.
2. Goal difference in these games.
3. Goals scored in these games.
4. Goals scored in away games.
5. Play-off on neutral ground (October 19, 1997).

GROUP 1

24.04.96	Greece-Slovenia	2-0
01.09.96	Greece-Bosnia	3-0
01.09.96	Slovenia-Denmark	0-2
09.10.96	Denmark-Greece	2-1
08.10.96	Bosnia-Croatia	1-4
10.11.96	Slovenia-Bosnia	1-2
10.11.96	Croatia-Greece	1-1
29.03.97	Croatia-Denmark	1-1
02.04.97	Croatia-Slovenia	3-3
02.04.97	Bosnia-Greece	0-1
30.04.97	Denmark-Slovenia	4-0
30.04.97	Greece-Croatia	0-1
08.06.97	Denmark-Bosnia	2-0
20.08.97	Bosnia-Denmark	3-0
06.09.97	Croatia-Bosnia	3-2
06.09.97	Slovenia-Greece	0-3
10.09.97	Denmark-Croatia	3-1
10.09.97	Bosnia-Slovenia	1-0
11.10.97	Greece-Denmark	
11.10.97	Slovenia-Croatia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	7	5	1	1	14	6	16
Greece	7	4	1	2	11	4	13
Croatia	7	3	3	1	14	11	12
Bosnia-H'a	8	3	0	5	9	14	9
Slovenia	7	0	1	6	4	17	1

GROUP 2

01.09.96	Moldova-England	0-3
05.10.96	Moldova-Italy	1-3
09.10.96	England-Poland	2-1
09.10.96	Italy-Georgia	1-0
09.11.96	Georgia-England	0-2
10.11.96	Poland-Moldova	2-1
12.02.97	England-Italy	0-1
29.03.97	Italy-Moldova	3-0
02.04.97	Poland-Italy	0-0
30.04.97	England-Georgia	2-0
30.04.97	Italy-Poland	3-0
31.05.97	Poland-England	0-2
07.06.97	Georgia-Moldova	2-0
14.06.97	Poland-Georgia	4-1
10.09.97	England-Moldova	4-0
10.09.97	Georgia-Italy	0-0
24.09.97	Moldova-Georgia	0-1
07.10.97	Moldova-Poland	
11.10.97	Italy-England	
11.10.97	Georgia-Poland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	7	6	0	1	15	2	18
Italy	7	5	2	0	11	1	17
Poland	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Georgia	7	2	1	4	4	9	7
Moldova	7	0	0	7	2	18	0

GROUP 3

02.06.96	Norway-Azerbaijan	5-0
31.08.96	Azerbaijan-Switzerland	1-0
01.09.96	Hungary-Finland	1-0
06.10.96	Finland-Switzerland	2-3
09.10.96	Norway-Hungary	3-0
10.11.96	Switzerland-Norway	0-1
10.11.96	Azerbaijan-Hungary	0-3
02.04.97	Azerbaijan-Finland	1-2
30.04.97	Norway-Finland	1-1
30.04.97	Switzerland-Hungary	1-0
08.06.97	Finland-Azerbaijan	3-0
08.06.97	Hungary-Norway	1-1
20.08.97	Finland-Norway	0-4
20.08.97	Hungary-Switzerland	1-1
06.09.97	Switzerland-Finland	1-2
06.09.97	Azerbaijan-Norway	0-1
10.09.97	Hungary-Azerbaijan	3-1
10.09.97	Norway-Switzerland	5-0
11.10.97	Finland-Hungary	
11.10.97	Switzerland-Azerbaijan	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	8	6	2	0	21	2	20
Hungary	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Finland	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Switzerland	7	2	1	4	6	12	7
Azerbaijan	7	1	0	6	3	17	3

Norway qualify for finals

GROUP 4

01.06.96	Sweden-Belarus	5-1
31.08.96	Austria-Scotland	0-0
31.08.96	Belarus-Estonia	1-0
01.09.96	Latvia-Sweden	1-2
05.10.96	Estonia-Belarus	1-0
05.10.96	Latvia-Scotland	0-2
09.10.96	Sweden-Austria	0-1
09.10.96	Estonia- Scotland	postponed
09.10.96	Belarus-Latvia	1-1
09.11.96	Austria-Latvia	2-1
10.11.96	Scotland-Sweden	1-0
11.02.97*	Estonia-Scotland	0-0
29.03.97	Scotland-Estonia	2-0
02.04.97	Scotland-Austria	2-0
30.04.97	Austria-Estonia	2-0
30.04.97	Sweden-Scotland	2-1
30.04.97	Latvia-Belarus	2-0
18.05.97	Estonia-Latvia	1-3
08.06.97	Estonia-Sweden	2-3
08.06.97	Latvia-Austria	1-3
08.06.97	Belarus-Scotland	0-1
20.08.97	Estonia-Austria	0-3
20.08.97	Belarus-Sweden	1-2
06.09.97	Austria-Sweden	1-0
06.09.97	Latvia-Estonia	1-0
07.09.97	Scotland-Belarus	4-1
10.09.97	Sweden-Latvia	1-0
10.09.97	Belarus-Austria	0-1
11.10.97	Austria-Belarus	
11.10.97	Scotland-Latvia	
11.10.97	Sweden-Estonia	

* played in Monaco

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	9	7	1	1	13	4	22
Scotland	9	6	2	1	13	3	20
Sweden	9	6	0	3	15	9	18
Latvia	9	3	1	5	10	12	10
Belarus	8	1	1	7	5	17	4
Estonia	9	1	1	7	4	15	4

GROUP 5

01.09.96	Israel-Bulgaria	2-1
01.09.96	Russia-Cyprus	4-0
08.10.96	Luxembourg-Bulgaria	1-2
09.10.96	Israel-Russia	1-1
10.11.96	Cyprus-Israel	2-0
10.11.96	Luxembourg-Russia	0-4
14.12.96	Cyprus-Bulgaria	1-3
15.12.96	Israel-Luxembourg	1-0
29.03.97	Cyprus-Russia	1-1
30.03.97	Luxembourg-Israel	0-3
02.04.97	Bulgaria-Cyprus	4-1
30.04.97	Israel-Cyprus	2-0
30.04.97	Russia-Luxembourg	3-0
08.06.97	Bulgaria-Luxembourg	4-0
08.06.97	Russia-Israel	2-0
20.08.97	Bulgaria-Israel	1-0
07.09.97	Luxembourg-Cyprus	1-3
10.09.97	Bulgaria-Russia	1-0
11.10.97	Cyprus-Luxembourg	
11.10.97	Russia-Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	7	6	0	1	16	5	18
Russia	7	4	2	1	15	3	14
Israel	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
Cyprus	7	2	1	4	8	15	7
Luxembourg	7	0	0	7	2	20	0

Bulgaria qualify for finals

GROUP 6

24.04.96	Yugoslavia-Faroe Islands	3-1
02.06.96	Yugoslavia-Malta	6-0
31.08.96	Faroe Islands-Slovakia	1-2
04.09.96	Faroe Islands-Spain	2-6
18.09.96	Czech Rep-Malta	6-0
22.09.96	Slovakia-Malta	6-0
06.10.96	Faroe Islands-Yugoslavia	1-8
09.10.96	Czech Rep-Spain	0-0
23.10.96	Slovakia-Faroe Islands	3-0
10.11.96	Yugoslavia-Czech Rep	1-0
13.11.96	Spain-Slovakia	4-1
14.12.96	Spain-Yugoslavia	2-0
18.12.96	Malta-Spain	0-3
12.02.97	Spain-Malta	4-0
31.03.97	Malta-Slovakia	0-2
02.04.97	Czech Rep-Yugoslavia	1-2
30.04.97	Malta-Faroe Islands	1-2
30.04.97	Yugoslavia-Spain	1-1
08.06.97	Spain-Czech Rep	1-0
08.06.97	Yugoslavia-Slovakia	2-0
08.06.97	Faroe Islands-Malta	2-1
20.08.97	Czech Rep-Faroe Islands	2-0
24.08.97	Slovakia-Czech Rep	2-1
06.09.97	Faroe Islands-Czech Rep	0-2
10.09.97	Slovakia-Yugoslavia	1-1
24.09.97	Malta-Czech Rep	0-1
24.09.97	Slovakia-Spain	1-2
11.10.97	Malta-Yugoslavia	
11.10.97	Spain-Faroe Islands	
11.10.97	Czech Rep-Slovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	9	7	2	0	23	5	23
Yugoslavia	9	6	2	1	24	7	20
Slovakia	9	5	1	3	18	11	16
Czech Rep	9	4	1	4	13	6	13
Faroe Islands	9	2	0	7	9	28	6
Malta	9	0	0	9	2	32	0

Spain qualify for finals

GROUP 7

02.06.96	San Marino-Wales	0-5
31.08.96	Belgium-Turkey	2-1
31.08.96	Wales-San Marino	6-0
05.10.96	Wales-Holland	1-3
09.10.96	San Marino-Belgium	0-3
09.11.96	Holland-Wales	7-1
10.11.96	Turkey-San Marino	7-0
14.12.96	Belgium-Holland	0-3
14.12.96	Wales-Turkey	0-0
29.03.97	Holland-San Marino	4-0
29.03.97	Wales-Belgium	1-2
02.04.97	Turkey-Holland	1-0
30.04.97	Turkey-Belgium	1-3
30.04.97	San Marino-Holland	0-6
07.06.97	Belgium-San Marino	6-0
20.08.97	Turkey-Wales	6-4
06.09.97	Holland-Belgium	3-1
10.09.97	San Marino-Turkey	0-5
11.10.97	Belgium-Wales	
11.10.97	Holland-Turkey	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	7	6	0	1	26	4	18
Belgium	7	5	0	2	17	9	15
Turkey	7	4	1	2	21	9	13
Wales	7	2	1	4	18	18	7
San Marino	8	0	0	8	0	42	0

GROUP 8

24.04.96	Macedonia-Liechtenstein	3-0
01.06.96	Iceland-Macedonia	1-1
31.08.96	Liechtenstein-Rep Ireland	0-5
31.08.96	Romania-Lithuania	3-0
05.10.96	Lithuania-Iceland	2-0
09.10.96	Iceland-Romania	0-4
09.10.96	Rep Ireland-Macedonia	3-0
09.10.96	Lithuania-Liechtenstein	2-1
09.11.96	Liechtenstein-Macedonia	1-11
10.11.96	Rep Ireland-Iceland	0-0
14.12.96	Macedonia-Romania	0-3
29.03.97	Romania-Liechtenstein	8-0
02.04.97	Lithuania-Romania	0-1
02.04.97	Macedonia-Rep Ireland	3-2
30.04.97	Liechtenstein-Lithuania	0-2
30.04.97	Romania-Rep Ireland	1-0
21.05.97	Rep Ireland-Liechtenstein	5-0
07.06.97	Macedonia-Iceland	1-0
11.06.97	Iceland-Lithuania	0-0
20.08.97	Liechtenstein-Iceland	0-4
20.08.97	Rep Ireland-Lithuania	0-0
20.08.97	Romania-Macedonia	4-2
06.09.97	Iceland-Rep Ireland	2-4
06.09.97	Liechtenstein-Romania	1-8
06.09.97	Lithuania-Macedonia	2-0
10.09.97	Romania-Iceland	4-0
10.09.97	Lithuania-Rep Ireland	1-2
11.10.97	Iceland-Liechtenstein	
11.10.97	Rep Ireland-Romania	
11.10.97	Macedonia-Lithuania	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	9	9	0	0	36	3	27
Rep of Ireland	9	5	2	2	21	7	17
Lithuania	9	4	2	3	9	7	14
FYR Macedonia	9	4	1	4	21	16	13
Iceland	9	1	3	5	7	16	6
Liechtenstein	9	0	0	9	3	48	0

Romania qualify for finals

GROUP 9

31.08.96	Northern Ireland-Ukraine	0-1
31.08.96	Armenia-Portugal	0-0
05.10.96	Northern Ireland-Armenia	1-1
05.10.96	Ukraine-Portugal	2-1
09.10.96	Albania-Portugal	0-3
09.10.96	Armenia-Germany	1-5
09.11.96	Albania-Armenia	1-1
09.11.96	Germany-Northern Ireland	1-1
09.11.96	Portugal-Ukraine	1-0
14.12.96	Northern Ireland-Albania	2-0
14.12.96	Portugal-Germany	0-0
29.03.97	Albania-Ukraine	0-1
29.03.97	Northern Ireland-Portugal	0-0
02.04.97	Albania-Germany	2-3
02.04.97	Ukraine-Northern Ireland	2-1
30.04.97	Germany-Ukraine	2-0
30.04.97	Armenia-Northern Ireland	0-0
07.05.97	Ukraine-Armenia	1-1
07.06.97	Portugal-Albania	2-0
07.06.97	Ukraine-Germany	0-0
20.08.97	Northern Ireland-Germany	1-3
20.08.97	Portugal-Armenia	3-1
20.08.97	Ukraine-Albania	1-0
06.09.97	Germany-Portugal	1-1
06.09.97	Armenia-Albania	3-0
10.09.97	Albania-Northern Ireland	1-0
10.09.97	Germany-Armenia	4-0
11.10.97	Germany-Albania	
11.10.97	Portugal-Northern Ireland	
11.10.97	Armenia-Ukraine	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	9	5	4	0	19	6	19
Ukraine	9	5	2	2	8	6	17
Portugal	9	4	4	1	11	4	16
Armenia	9	1	5	3	8	15	8
Northern Ireland	9	1	4	4	6	9	7
Albania	9	1	1	7	4	16	7

We're through...Bulgaria make France

QUALIFIERS

Romania
Norway
Bulgaria
Spain
Argentina
Colombia
Paraguay
Cameroon
Morocco
Nigeria
South Africa
Tunisia
France (hosts)
Brazil (holders)

Swiss miss out...talented youngsters like Raphael Wicky will not be at France 98

Swiss roll over

The party is over for the Swiss. Keir Radnedge reports

FOCUS: SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND will not, this time, be going to the ball. After taking enormous pride in reaching the finals of both the 1994 World Cup and the 1996 European Championship, the Swiss bubble has burst.

The remarkable revival achieved under the managership of Roy Hodgson has faded since his departure, at the end of 1995, first for Internazionale of Italy and now to Blackburn Rovers. Two shattering defeats within the space of four days – 2-1 at home to surprise qualifying candidates Finland then 5-0 away to group winners Norway – and it was all over.

Now the hunt is on for scapegoats. Senior players such as Kaiserslautern midfielder Ciri Sforza, Borussia Dortmund striker Stephane Chapuisat and Blackburn defender Stephane Henchoz have all been targeted by angry fans. But their supposed crime is nothing more than the fact that they are among the few Swiss players to earn their professional living abroad – leading to simplistic and exaggerated accusations that their clubs matter more to them than their country.

It's national coach Rolf Fringer who is at the head of the firing line, however – all of which is considered somewhat unfair by his boss, Eugen Matzler, president of the Swiss national team committee.

Matzler says: "We must be realistic. Fringer took over properly at the start of last season and the Fringer Era is about rebuilding. We should not expect results overnight. Before Fringer came along we had won only one game in eight at the end of Roy Hodgson's reign and then when Artur Jorge was in charge for Euro 96.

"The players who were the foundation of our team in the United States in 1994 and then in qualifying for Euro 96 reached the end of their active days. No country could easily replace men such as Alain Geiger, Marcel Koller and Christophe Bonvin. These were important not just because of their ability but because of their experience and their leadership qualities."

The Swiss squad which collapsed against the Finns and Norwegians does possess plenty of natural ability. But only goalkeeper Stephane Lehmann from Lucerne may be considered serious leadership material and, at 34, he may not be around for too much longer, either.

Henchoz and Tottenham's Ramon Vega are key men in central defence but assorted injuries have prevented them from developing, as yet, the understanding necessary to anchor a ramshackle defence – and Marc Hottiger has vanished from the scene after his career took a disastrous downturn with his less-than-convincing spell in the Premiership with Newcastle United then Everton.

Switzerland do possess talented youngsters. Defensive midfielder Raphael Wicky from Germany's Werder Bremen is one while League leaders Servette provide midfielders Mario Cantaluppi, aged 23, Sebastian Fournier, 25, and forward David Sesa, 24. But, as Fringer reluctantly admits, being top of the table in Switzerland is no longer a good enough springboard when it comes to vaulting qualifying rivals at major international level.

Fringer does concede that Swiss fans and officials may have become guilty of overconfidence and complacency after the qualifying successes under Hodgson. Fringer says: "Just because we reached finals of the World Cup and the European Championship is no guarantee that we are always going to do that. The trouble was, people began to think we had a right to be at the big events and so the disappointment with our last few results has been magnified."

To put Switzerland into their true international context, the national team are No 28 in Europe and 64 in the world according to the latest FIFA rankings; the country's international status at club level, as computed by the coefficient system which UEFA uses as foundation for its seedings lists, is no higher than 17.

On one hand, Swiss fans DID have a right to be optimistic about the current World Cup qualifying series. The Swiss, after their successes of the last few years, had been one of the No 2 level seeds when the preliminary groups were drawn out of the hat. Yet the group's top seeds were not mighty Italy or Germany but the comparatively pedestrian Norway. And the rest of the group comprised the doldrums-dwelling Hungarians, minnows Azerbaijan and a Finland team who have never, ever reached the finals of anything.

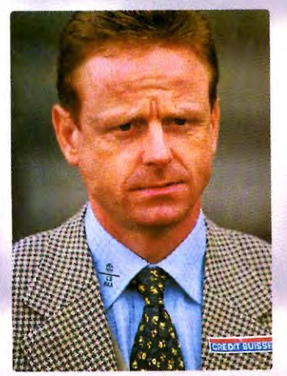
Switzerland could not have had an easier task. But they blew it. And that qualifying failure will push them down the seedings lists and offer only sterner qualification challenges in the years ahead.

Midfield general Sforza complained about bad luck. Certainly, in the 1-1 draw with Hungary in August and then at home to Finland, the Swiss were denied four times by the woodwork. But six goals in seven matches speak volumes about the lack of attacking bite, of what the Swiss themselves describe as 'Killerinstinkt'.

Fringer says: "It would be easy to blame bad luck. But that's not the real answer. We don't appear to have the necessary cutting edge at international level."

Ironically, while many countries complain about the numbers of players who have emigrated in search of lucrative club contracts, one of Switzerland's problems is in the lack of cosmopolitan experience. Only six of the 20-man squad against Finland and Norway earn their living outside Switzerland. Compare that with the Norwegians, whose own 18-man squad boasts only seven home-based players!

It would be easy for the Swiss to make Fringer, a former domestic champi-



Under fire...Swiss coach Rolf Fringer

onship-winning coach with Aarau, the scapegoat. But, as Matzler says: "Our problems go far deeper than merely the personality of the coach. I believe Fringer has been doing a good job against a difficult background. We had been having a bad run before he came along and he has a big rebuilding job ahead of him.

"Also, it's not down to Fringer to score the goals we need – that's the players' job. If they cannot do that, Fringer can hardly be blamed, can he?"

Hosts wth the most?

Coach Aime Jacquet's problems are mounting

FOCUS: FRANCE

AIME JACQUET would have loved to have been at St James' Park the night Newcastle bruised those Barcelona egos in the first round of Champions League group matches. A matter of a few weeks earlier the manager of World Cup hosts France would have instructed his secretary at the FFF offices in Paris to make all the necessary bookings.

In the end, it was not necessary.

Jacquet, had events not fallen out differently, would have relished watching two of his key World Cup men, versatile midfielder Christian Karembeu and dogged centre-forward Christophe Dugarry, under the sort of international competitive pressure next June will bring in spades.

However, Barcelona's bid for Karembeu was stymied by the player's own desire to join Real Madrid, while Dugarry has become a self-infected victim of a virulent strain of Bosmanitis.

Karembeu is still, officially, a contracted player to Sampdoria of Genoa. His contract does not expire until the summer of 1999. He has already agreed, however, to join Madrid. Or rather – since clubs are not permitted to talk to players so far ahead – Karembeu's AGENTS have agreed that he will join the Spanish champions.

Talks are so far advanced that Real have already deposited a goodwill £200,000 with Karembeu's agents and finalised a deal right down to the sort of BMW he can expect to be driving in Spain. The problem is, Sampdoria's president, Enrico Mantovani, is so angry with Madrid's poachers – particularly after they lured away Clarence Seedorf last year – that he says he will sell to anyone BUT Madrid.

Despite having then been omitted from squad training on Mantovani's orders, Karembeu has continued to tell friends privately that he expects to be lining up for Madrid before the season is out. That may be so but the longer he stays in cold storage the weaker will become his prospects of bringing direction and zest to the French World Cup midfield next June and July.

He is not Jacquet's only concern.

Dugarry was the attacking leader of the Bordeaux side which charged through the 1995 InterToto Cup to the 1996 UEFA Cup Final. He is not a player of great finesse but he is keen, direct and brave – all qualities which attracted Milan last year. He is not, however, another George Weah. So Dugarry totted up only 24 appearances – including substitution roles – for Milan, as a reserve de luxe.

Dugarry was one of the players Jacquet had uppermost in his mind when

Problems...Jacquet is missing key players

the manager lectured players back in April.

"Remember," said Jacquet, "I know some of you will be changing clubs this summer but next season will be the most important, probably, in the history of French football. Don't do anything to jeopardise your own share in that."

Accordingly, Jacquet was duly delighted when he heard Dugarry was keen to leave Milan and thus step up his first-team possibilities in advance of the World Cup. He had a good Tournoi de France, as well. But joining Barcelona was not so good. (Dugarry's problems at Barça are well documented on page 33).

Jacquet says sadly: "These problems with Karembeu and Dugarry are part and parcel of the way the game has changed since Bosman and the TV explosion.

"We have a lot of players abroad. I have never wanted to interfere in their own decisions about their careers. But I did warn them all that if anyone missed out on the World Cup because he hadn't been playing first-team football, then he had only himself to blame.

"I can wait until January at the latest. Maybe the Karembeu situation will be resolved by then but as for Dugarry, who knows?

"Christophe knew the situation. He knew there were other clubs interested in him when he decided to leave Milan. Barcelona weren't the only ones. There was Marseille though I understand they weren't offering the same sort of personal terms."

Jacquet has other personnel problems. Goalkeeper Bernard Lama has been absent since the end of last season following his dope-test ban and publicly-expressed desire to quit Paris St Germain; also striker Patrice Loko has been back for treatment for clinical depression.

Aime Jacquet may soon be wishing he could get away from it all, as well!

Keir Radnedge

SOUTH AMERICA

Top three book places

ARGENTINA, Colombia and Paraguay all booked their tickets for next summer's finals, leaving Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia and Uruguay to battle it out for the remaining place from South America's marathon round-robin qualifying section.

A late goal from Claudio Lopez gave group leaders Argentina a 2-1 victory over Chile in Santiago and secured qualification for France. Man of the match Ariel Ortega was again the inspiration for Argentina, creating the goals for Marcelo Gallardo and Lopez. Marcelo Salas replied for Chile.

The victory was Argentina's fifth successive win in the marathon qualifying process after a poor start during which Daniel Passarella's side lost to Ecuador and Bolivia.

Colombia experienced no such problems early on, and qualified with a comfortable 1-0 home win over bottom team Venezuela. Midfielder Wilmer Cabrera scored the goal which took Colombia to their third successive World Cup finals.

Paraguay goalkeeper and team captain Jose Luis Chilavert returned from a four – match suspension, during which Paraguay lost three times – to lead his team to a 2-1 win over Bolivia in Asuncion.

Miguel Benitez scored Paraguay's first following a knockdown from a free-kick launched by Chilavert from his own penalty area. Carlos Gamarra put Paraguay further ahead and they withstood a second-half fightback from Bolivia to qualify for France.

Peru's 2-1 win over Uruguay in Lima boosted their chances of snatching the final qualifying place. Internazionale's Alvaro Recoba had put Uruguay ahead before two second-half goals for Peru and a red card for Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca sealed the win.

The win put Peru into fourth place, three points clear of Chile, their next opponents. Ecuador, Bolivia and Uruguay must all win their remaining matches to have any chance of pipping Peru or Chile to the final qualifying spot.

Gavin Hamilton

HOW THEY STAND

ROUND-ROBIN

(Top 4 teams qualify)

24.04.96	Argentina-Bolivia	3-1
24.04.96	Colombia-Paraguay	1-0
24.04.96	Ecuador-Peru	4-1
24.04.96	Venezuela-Uruguay	0-2
02.06.96	Ecuador-Argentina	2-0
02.06.96	Peru-Colombia	1-1
02.06.96	Uruguay-Paraguay	0-2
02.06.96	Venezuela-Chile	1-1
07.07.96	Bolivia-Venezuela	6-1
07.07.96	Chile-Ecuador	4-1
07.07.96	Colombia-Uruguay	3-1
07.07.96	Peru-Argentina	0-0
01.09.96	Argentina-Paraguay	1-1
01.09.96	Bolivia-Peru	0-0
01.09.96	Colombia-Chile	4-1
01.09.96	Ecuador-Venezuela	1-0
08.10.96	Uruguay-Bolivia	1-0
09.10.96	Ecuador-Colombia	0-1
09.10.96	Paraguay-Chile	2-1
09.10.96	Venezuela-Argentina	2-5
10.11.96	Bolivia-Colombia	2-2
10.11.96	Paraguay-Ecuador	1-0
10.11.96	Peru-Venezuela	4-1
12.11.96	Chile-Uruguay	1-0
15.12.96	Argentina-Chile	1-1
15.12.96	Bolivia-Paraguay	0-0
15.12.96	Uruguay-Peru	2-0
15.12.96	Venezuela-Colombia	0-2
12.01.97	Bolivia-Ecuador	2-0
12.01.97	Peru-Chile	2-1
12.01.97	Uruguay-Argentina	0-0
12.01.97	Venezuela-Paraguay	0-2
12.02.97	Bolivia-Chile	1-1
12.02.97	Colombia-Argentina	0-1
12.02.97	Ecuador-Uruguay	4-0
12.02.97	Paraguay-Peru	2-1
02.04.97	Bolivia-Argentina	2-1
02.04.97	Paraguay-Colombia	2-1
02.04.97	Peru-Ecuador	1-1
02.04.97	Uruguay-Venezuela	3-1
30.04.97	Argentina-Ecuador	2-1
30.04.97	Chile-Venezuela	6-0
30.04.97	Colombia-Peru	0-1
30.04.97	Paraguay-Uruguay	3-1
08.06.97	Argentina-Peru	2-0
08.06.97	Ecuador-Chile	1-1
08.06.97	Uruguay-Colombia	1-1
08.06.97	Venezuela-Bolivia	1-1
06.07.97	Chile-Colombia	4-1
06.07.97	Paraguay-Argentina	1-2
06.07.97	Peru-Bolivia	2-1
06.07.97	Venezuela-Ecuador	1-1
20.07.97	Argentina-Venezuela	2-0
20.07.97	Bolivia-Uruguay	1-0
20.07.97	Chile-Paraguay	2-1
20.07.97	Colombia-Ecuador	1-0
20.08.97	Colombia-Bolivia	3-0
20.08.97	Ecuador-Paraguay	2-1
20.08.97	Uruguay-Chile	1-0
20.08.97	Venezuela-Peru	0-3
10.09.97	Chile-Argentina	1-2
10.09.97	Colombia-Venezuela	1-0
10.09.97	Paraguay-Bolivia	2-1
10.09.97	Peru-Uruguay	2-1
12.10.97	Argentina-Uruguay	
12.10.97	Chile-Peru	
12.10.97	Ecuador-Bolivia	
12.10.97	Paraguay-Venezuela	
16.11.97	Argentina-Colombia	
16.11.97	Chile-Bolivia	
16.11.97	Peru-Paraguay	
16.11.97	Uruguay-Ecuador	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	14	8	4	2	22	12	28
Colombia	15	8	3	4	22	14	27
Paraguay	14	8	2	4	20	13	26
Peru	14	6	4	4	18	16	22
Chile	14	5	4	5	25	18	19
Ecuador	14	5	3	6	18	16	18
Bolivia	14	4	5	5	18	17	17
Uruguay	14	5	2	7	13	18	17
Venezuela	15	0	3	12	8	40	3

FRANCE 98 COUPE DU MONDE

Jamaica on course

JAMAICA are on the brink of qualifying for the World Cup for the first time. Derby County striker Deon Burton fired Jamaica into second place in the CONCACAF section, scoring the only goal in victories over Canada and Costa Rica.

Jamaica – managed by their remarkable 'on-loan' Brazilian coach, Rene Simoes – would become only the second Caribbean country after Haiti to reach the finals.

Portsmouth winger Paul Hall said: "No-one is talking about cricket in Jamaica at the moment, it's the football team."

Iran took an early lead in a tight-looking Group A after going unbeaten in the opening three matches of their second-round campaign.

But they had to come back from a goal down at half-time in their first game before seeing off China 4-2.

Saudi Arabia lie a point behind with a game in hand after defeating Kuwait 2-1 and drawing 1-1 with Iran. Kuwait bounced back from that early setback to defeat Qatar and take a point off Iran.

David Hulmes

CONCACAF

HOW THEY STAND

FINAL ROUND

League format. Top three qualify for finals

02.03.97	Mexico-Canada	4-0
02.03.97	Jamaica-USA	0-0
16.03.97	USA-Canada	3-0
16.03.97	Costa Rica-Mexico	0-0
23.03.97	Costa Rica-USA	3-2
06.04.97	Canada-El Salvador	0-0
13.04.97	Mexico-Jamaica	6-0
20.04.97	USA-Mexico	2-2
27.04.97	Canada-Jamaica	0-0
04.05.97	El Salvador-Costa Rica	2-1
11.05.97	Costa Rica-Jamaica	3-1
18.05.97	Jamaica-El Salvador	1-0
01.06.97	Canada-Costa Rica	1-0
08.06.97	El Salvador-Mexico	0-1
29.06.97	El Salvador-USA	1-1
10.08.97	Costa Rica-El Salvador	0-0
07.09.97	USA-Costa Rica	1-0
07.09.97	Jamaica-Canada	1-0
14.09.97	Jamaica-Costa Rica	1-0
14.09.97	El Salvador-Canada	4-1
03.10.97	USA-Jamaica	
05.10.97	Mexico-El Salvador	
12.10.97	Canada-Mexico	
02.11.97	Mexico-USA	
09.11.97	Canada-USA	
09.11.97	El Salvador-Jamaica	
09.11.97	Mexico-Costa Rica	
16.11.97	Jamaica-Mexico	
16.11.97	Costa Rica-Canada	
16.11.97	USA-El Salvador	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	5	3	2	0	13	2	11
Jamaica	7	3	2	2	4	9	11
United States	6	2	3	1	9	6	9
El Salvador	7	2	3	2	7	5	9
Costa Rica	8	2	2	4	7	8	8
Canada	7	1	2	4	2	12	5

ASIA

HOW THEY STAND

SECOND ROUND

GROUP A

13.09.97	China PR-Iran	2-4
14.09.97	Saudi Arabia-Kuwait	2-1
19.09.97	Iran-Saudi Arabia	1-1
19.09.97	Qatar-Kuwait	0-2
26.09.97	Kuwait-Iran	1-1
26.09.97	Qatar-China PR	1-1
03.10.97	China PR-Saudi Arabia	
03.10.97	Iran-Qatar	
10.10.97	Kuwait-China PR	
11.10.97	Saudi Arabia-Qatar	
17.10.97	Iran-China PR	
17.10.97	Kuwait-Saudi Arabia	
24.10.97	Kuwait-Qatar	
24.10.97	Saudi Arabia-Iran	
31.10.97	China PR-Qatar	
31.10.97	Iran-Kuwait	
06.11.97	Saudi Arabia-China PR	
07.11.97	Qatar-Iran	
12.11.97	China PR-Kuwait	
12.11.97	Qatar-Saudi Arabia	

League format. Winners qualify for finals

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Kuwait	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Saudi Arabia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Qatar	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
China PR	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

GROUP B

06.09.97	South Korea-Kazakhstan	3-0
07.09.97	Japan-Uzbekistan	6-3
12.09.97	South Korea-Uzbekistan	2-1
12.09.97	UAE-Kazakhstan	4-0
19.09.97	UAE-Japan	0-0
20.09.97	Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan	1-1
27.09.97	Uzbekistan-UAE	2-3
28.09.97	Japan-South Korea	1-2
04.10.97	South Korea-UAE	
04.10.97	Kazakhstan-Japan	
11.10.97	Uzbekistan-Japan	
11.10.97	Kazakhstan-South Korea	
18.10.97	Uzbekistan-South Korea	
18.10.97	Kazakhstan-UAE	
25.10.97	Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan	
26.10.97	Japan-UAE	
01.11.97	South Korea-Japan	
02.11.97	UAE-Uzbekistan	
08.11.97	Japan-Kazakhstan	
09.11.97	UAE-South Korea	

League format. Winners qualify for finals

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S Korea	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
UAE	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Japan	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Uzbekistan	4	0	1	3	7	12	1
Kazakhstan	3	0	1	2	1	8	1

PLAY-OFFS

16.11.97 Play-off between two second-placed from second round, on neutral ground. Winner qualifies for finals; loser plays Australia, winner of the Oceania qualifying section, in two-legged play-off for place in finals.

22.11.97 play-off loser v Australia
29.11.97 Australia v play-off loser

The finals

GROUP MATCHES

10.06.98
Paris Stade de France (Gp A)
Montpellier (A)
11.06.98
Toulouse (B)
Bordeaux (B)
12.06.98
Lens (C)
Marseille (D)
Montpellier (C)
13.06.98
Paris Stade de France (E)
Lyon (E)
Nantes (D)
14.06.98
Lens (H)
St Etienne (F)
Toulouse (H)
15.06.98
Paris Parc des Princes (F)
Lyon (G)
Marseille (G)
16.06.98
Bordeaux (A)
Nantes (A)
17.06.98
St Etienne (B)
Montpellier (B)
18.06.98
Paris Stade de France (C)
Toulouse (C)
19.06.98
Paris Parc de Princes (D)
St Etienne (D)
20.06.98
Marseille (E)
Bordeaux (E)
Nantes (H)
21.06.98
Paris Parc de Princes (H)
Lens (F)
Lyon (F)
22.06.98
Montpellier (G)
Toulouse (G)
23.06.98
Paris Stade de France (B)
St Etienne (A)
Marseille (A)
Nantes (B)
24.06.98
Lens (D)
Lyon (C)
Toulouse (D)
Bordeaux (C)
25.06.98
Paris Parc des Princes (E)
Montpellier (F)
Nantes (F)
St Etienne (E)
26.06.98
Paris Stade de France (G)
Lens (G)
Lyon (H)
Bordeaux (H)

2ND ROUND

27.06.98
Paris Parc des Princes
Marseille
28.06.98
Paris Stade de France
Lens
29.06.98
Montpellier
Toulouse
30.06.98
St Etienne
Bordeaux

QUARTER-FINALS

03.07.98
Paris Stade de France
Nantes
04.07.98
Lyon
Marseille

SEMI-FINALS

07.07.98
Marseille
08.07.98
Paris Stade de France

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

11.07.98
Paris Parc des Princes

FINAL

12.07.98
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Samba

Jeff King reports from Barcelona on the Brazilian invasion of La Liga

RONALDO may have abandoned ship for the promised land of Serie A, but the words *futbol* and *samba* remain Siamese twins when it comes to Spain's sporting headlines.

Spanish clubs invested more than £200million in new players last summer, all but the small change on foreigners. Five Brazilians – Denilson, Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Sonny Anderson and Juninho – currently sit atop Spain's all-time most expensive transfer charts, while Spain's Brazilian quota nears 30.

And we're definitely not talking bit players; we're talking the top clubs and their key men.

Ronaldo and the odd defender aside, Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo has indicated that his side's 1998 World Cup assault will be spearheaded by Spanish-employed talent. Romario, Rivaldo, Sonny Anderson, Giovanni, Djalminha and Denilson add up to an extraordinary arsenal of attacking talent even by Brazilian standards. That Juninho is struggling to make the squad says it all.

And if that lot doesn't bedazzle opponents, there's always Roberto Carlos lurking behind them to blast a wedge through the most obdurate defensive wall.

"Spanish clubs have always been fascinated by Brazilian players," says Juan Pedro Martinez, editor of the football weekly *Don Balon*, "but there's been a gradual increase in recent years, culminating with the Ronaldo boom.

"Clubs here are convinced that Brazil is once again where the talent is, even though a blanket approach means they're occasionally paying over the odds for players.

"The achievements of Bebeto and Mauro Silva played a big part in kick-starting the trend, too. Deportivo La Coruna had been in the Second Division for 17 years, then largely thanks to those two were suddenly challenging for the title and getting to Cup finals. Then there was Romario's success at Barcelona, and of course Ronaldo."

Naturally, everybody loves a skilful Brazilian, but why do the players themselves forego the equally lucrative pastures of, say, Italy or England?

"They prefer Spain to England because of pretty obvious cultural reasons," continues Martinez, "not least the climate and language [Spanish and Portuguese speakers can make themselves understood from day one].

"As for Italy, there's a widespread feeling among Brazilian footballers that *calcio* is more complicated for attackers. Spanish football is more similar in style to their game at home; Brazilians definitely get more space to turn it on here."

Several Spanish clubs (plus most Spanish agents) now have

Espana!

first refusal deals with Brazilian clubs: Deportivo/Palmeiras, Real Madrid/Portuguesa and Valencia/Flamengo.

And if a Brazilian footballer wants to raise his profile these days, there's no better place to ply his trade than Spain. It's common knowledge that Juninho chose Atletico Madrid over Manchester United because he thought it would improve his international prospects.

"They say that Mario Zagallo takes more notice of players in Spain than anywhere else," says Valencia's latest acquisition, Marcelinho Carioca. "The Spanish League is televised in Brazil, which gives you a higher profile, too."

Of course, building your squad around a Brazilian colony has its drawbacks, too. Madrid may be more like home than Middlesbrough, but Brazilians remain notoriously reluctant to integrate, wherever they lay their hats.

"They tend to lead their lives away from football in their own sealed little world," insists Martinez, "they'll bring friends or relations with them – and they'll hop back to Brazil at the slightest opportunity, even if it involves tiresome return journeys taking three or four days."

Even when they are in town, it is an open secret that a Brazilian's sporting priorities lie with his national side. The Catalans often moaned that Ronaldo's priorities were Brazil, Nike and Barcelona, in that order.

When asked why his young charge was so blasé about the Catalan footballing flagship, (one of) Ronaldo's agents barked: "Sentiments are for Brazil, he plays in Europe for money." Quite simply, when it comes to club v country, you won't get too many Brazilians telling Zagallo to give them a break.

What is to all intents and purposes a friendly kickabout, the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia in December, has been deemed official by FIFA, and the Brazilian FA has already confirmed it will exercise its right to call its squad together 14 days in advance.

Barcelona, to cite just one injured party, stand to lose their Brazilian triumvirate of Rivaldo, Anderson and Giovanni for a whole month – that's five League games and their final Champions League group match.

If it is any consolation, Brazil's finest tend to go all out in a World Cup season as they strive to earn a place in the beloved yellow. In 1993-94, Romario had arguably the finest season of his career as he shot Barça to the title in his own personal build-up to USA 94.

With so many Brazilians plying their trade in *La Liga*, Spain should witness some pretty exhilarating football as its samba contingent embark on one long race to the ticker tape and a place in Zagallo's team for France.

The Depor way

SO WHY do Spanish clubs sign so many Brazilians? In a nutshell, because they can. In the wake of the Bosman ruling, new Spanish legislation means clubs can now register six non-EC foreigners and deploy four on the pitch at any given time.

Add an estimated £180million in TV income this season alone, and Spain's footballing barons can meet Brazilian asking prices without blinking.

Significantly, as Brazilians (like all South Americans) are entitled to dual nationality in Spain after just two years, the guys who last the course are able to do so as locals.

Already this season, Deportivo La Coruna have fielded five Brazilians in one game: the foreigners Djalminha and Flavio Conceicao, and the 'Spaniards' Mauro Silva, Donato (both with more than half a decade in La Coruna) and Luizao (who has an EC passport because of Italian origins).

There are more Brazilians in Spain's top flight than there are Spanish footballers plying their trade in the rest of the world (from Wigan to Beijing). Of the 220 players who lined up on the season's opening day, 97 were foreigners.

"It's a major problem for me," admits Spain's coach, Javier Clemente, "and it will be even worse for my successor. If the likes of Pizzi, Amor, Abelardo and Ferrer [Spanish internationals bench-bound at Barcelona] can't get a game, what chance have the youngsters got of making their mark ?"

"It grieves me to see so few Spaniards at Depor," says Fran, the club's longest-serving player and the only local in the squad. "Signing genuine stars who make a real difference is not the problem, but clubs have gone mad signing foreigners who are often no better than home-grown players. Clubs are even creating youth policies in other countries instead of at home where it's way, way cheaper.

"There has to be a reduction in the number of foreigners; if it needs a strike to get it, then so be it."

As another Spanish international, Barcelona's Luis Enrique, puts it: "It makes you wonder why we still call it the Spanish League."

There has been plenty of unrest at Depor as the so-called clan *canarinho* has taken over, not least John Toshack abandoning ship, dismayed at his president's penchant for signing unknown Brazilians.

However, if Depor's Brazilians continue to thrill the fans and manage to inspire the club to major honours, Spanish presidents and scouts will continue to fill transatlantic flights to Rio.

Juninho
'We could win the lot'

MANY a swarthy eyebrow was raised around Spain when Atletico Madrid splashed out so heavily on a tiny midfielder who had just led his team to relegation, a player who wasn't even getting in the Brazilian squad.

But former Luton midfielder Radomir Antic, an avid follower of English footballer (his ex-boss, David Pleat, remains a close confidant), realised exactly the kind of havoc Juninho could wreak in a more competitive side than Boro.

A handful of pre-season performances were enough to convince the rest of Spain that £12million and some loose change can still get you a bargain.

The Athletic Bilbao coach, Luis Fernandez, sums up the consensus on the little Brazilian: "Middlesbrough and England's loss is Atletico and Spain's gain. I suspect Juninho will be the League's biggest star – he's that rare artist whose heart is as big as his talent. He's a wonderful player and the fans are going to adore him."

Juninho's goal in his League debut against Real Madrid ("That'll probably be the game of the season," he admitted afterwards) and his performance in orchestrating a 5-0 demolition of Valladolid the following week did nothing to dampen the hype.

"Atletico beat Valladolid 5-0 and it could have been 15, no kidding," says Martin O'Neill, who was there to spy on Leicester's UEFA Cup opponents. "And Juninho is Atletico's main man – he was pulling all the strings."

"Every single game he demonstrates what an exquisite player he is," purrs Atletico's other Brazilian new boy, central defender, Andrei. "He really is capable of pulling rabbits out of the hat on the pitch – he'll be the authentic leader at Atletico, the player who makes everybody else look good."

Despite a barrage of plaudits, the little fella himself strikes a modest pose. "I'm not interested in individual praise – I had that last year at Middlesbrough and look what happened," he insists. "All I'm interested in is helping my new team win things.

"Atletico possess so many top performers we can punish teams from any direction on the pitch. It's not just about Juninho." Juninho may be modest about his own achievements, but he's not underselling Atletico's prospects. Juventus centre-forward Christian Vieri and Espanyol winger Jordi Lardin also arrived at the Vicente Calderon this summer as part of a £34m overhaul.

"Our squad really is extraordinary; if we can mould ourselves into a unit quick enough we could win every competition we're involved in. Barcelona and Real Madrid are still the teams to beat, but Spanish football is incredibly competitive now, there's at least half a dozen real contenders – it's the League the whole world looks to."

Despite his coach's spell in England, Juninho admits he had never heard of Antic before his negotiations with Atletico, but he has been quickly impressed.

"He seems like a great coach – tactically he's very canny, and most importantly, he knows how to get his ideas through to the players. He may be really big on discipline but he's also very attack-minded – he wants things organised when we haven't got the ball, but he gives incredible liberty to attacking players like myself.

"It's a system that suits me and even if we don't win everything I'm sure we'll be entertaining."

Last season ended for Juninho in what he describes as "tragic circumstances", battling against relegation in England's north east. He hopes this season ends with a more glamorous bid for World Cup glory in France.

"It's going to be difficult getting back into the Brazilian team because there are so many talented players fighting for a couple of positions, but one of the reasons I came to Atletico is because I'm in the right place to impress Mario Zagallo.

"Also, I'll be competing directly with the likes of Djalminha and Giovanni here – if I can help Atletico come out on top in the League, it can only help my chances of making the team for France."

Rivaldo
'Zagallo's forgiven me'

O *REI* is dead, long live the king. Nobody wanted to lose Ronaldo, but Barcelona wasted no time in crowning a new Brazilian contender.

Even as *WORLD SOCCER*'s Player of the Year slipped past Louis Van Gaal through Nou Camp's revolving doors, Barça's new Dutch coach was bolstering his attack with a double dose of samba. Sonny Anderson arrived from Monaco to nominally replace Ronaldo at number nine, but it is the 11th hour signing, Rivaldo, who looks set to keep the pulse racing.

At just 21, Ronaldo looks like he could bludgeon his way through brick walls; in comparison, the 6ft 1in Rivaldo weighs in at less than 12 stone and looks as fragile as porcelain. He may be distinctly bow-legged but he boasts staying power in abundance.

Arriving at Deportivo in 1996 after scoring 87 goals in 60 games for Palmeiras, Rivaldo missed just one League game last season. Twenty-one goals in 41 goals from an attacking midfield position made him a one-man strike force for ultra-conservative Depor.

No wonder they were distressed to lose him when Barça coughed up the player's £16million escape clause on the eve of the new campaign.

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," says Rivaldo, who despite his languid appearance kicked off his Nou Camp career with three goals in his first three League games.

"Barça is one of the biggest clubs in the world – I know that means lots of responsibility on my shoulders, but I'm comfortable with that. My prime mission is to create and score goals and Van Gaal has given me liberty to do that.

"He has a reputation as a tough coach, but he inspires confidence among his players and there's plenty of dialogue – he regularly asks our opinion about what might improve the team. He's already created a real togetherness in the dressing room – it's like playing for Palmeiras or Brazil."

Rivaldo has no hang-ups about taking over from a budding legend. "I went through that after replacing Bebeto at Deportivo. Anyway, Ronaldo and I have practically nothing in common as players."

In fact, Rivaldo is more often compared to 1970 World Cup legend Gerson. Barça's new boy may not have Ronaldo's turn of pace, but he has a left foot to die for and his free-kicks make shapes an abstract painter would be proud of.

The word from Brazil is that Mario Zagallo has his

heart set on a triple R strike force of Rivaldo, Ronaldo and Romario for France 98. After his unhappy experience at the Atlanta Olympics, Rivaldo's arrival at Barcelona has coincided with his entry back into the Brazilian national team. Last month he starred in a 4-2 win against Ecuador after a year's exile.

"It seems like Zagallo and the fans have finally forgiven me for the defeat against Nigeria," admits Rivaldo. "We were 3-1 up when I came on and lost the ball in midfield for one of their goals – a lot of people blamed me for the defeat. Last year I had such a brilliant season for Depor my team-mates couldn't understand why I didn't get a recall."

Depor fans have accused their departing idol of being an ungrateful money-grabber. Rivaldo may be doubling his wage packet to an annual £1.2m, but if he is a little cagey with his cash, who can blame him?

Even by Brazilian standards, his upbringing was a tough one. As a youngster his dad was killed by a bus. And when he first started playing football competitively he used to make a 20km round trip to training…on foot!

"People who criticise me for thinking too much about money obviously don't know what it means to be poor," he says. Or so rich in talent.

A who's who of Spain's *canarinho*

SONNY ANDERSON
Barcelona, age 27.
Even Barcelona admit he came overpriced at £12.5m from Monaco, but he's arguably the best all-round athlete in Spanish football and Van Gaal loves his unselfish nature and work ethic. It took his move to Nou Camp to finally earn him an international call up.

GIOVANNI
Barcelona, age 25.
Arrived in 1996 as the world's most expensive video signing; £4.5m from Santos and nobody at Nou Camp had ever set eyes on him in the flesh. Infuriated Bobby Robson with his lackadaisical attitude, but is thriving under Van Gaal.

Sonny Anderson

ROMARIO
Valencia, age 31.
Back at Mestalla after a year on loan at Flamengo and desperate to make his mark on another World Cup after the success of his partnership with Ronaldo. The sacking of coach Jorge Valdano places a question mark over his future at Valencia.

MARCELINHO CARIOCA
Valencia, age 26.
In Brazil, they call him Angel Feet – a £4.5m signing from Corinthians, he wears a size 4 boot and like the great Socrates – another Brazilian with tiny feet – he can do unworldly things with a football.

ROBERTO CARLOS
Real Madrid, age 24.
That left foot, those thighs, *the* 85 mph banana-kick. A League champion in his first season in Spain after what he admits was a negative experience in Serie A with Internazionale. The prime advocate of the 'Brazilians are better off in Spain' line.

ZE ROBERTO
Real Madrid, age 23.
Another Zagallo regular in midfield or at wing-back and the scorer of the third goal in the Final of the Copa America, but he has yet to impose himself upon Real's first team since his 1996-97 mid-season arrival from Portuguesa.

DJALMINHA
Deportivo, age 26.
Yet another sweet left foot in Zagallo's squad, he scored two goals in three games at the Copa America. At £6.6m, Depor fans will hope his early season pussyfooting is just a case of a new boy finding his feet. Should get some help settling down from coach Carlos Alberto Silva – his dad's cousin.

LUIZAO
Deportivo, age 21.
Capped five times, the man with an Italian passport is a classic goal poacher. £3m summer arrival from Palmeiras who bears an uncanny on-the-park similarity to Ally McCoist of Rangers.

FLAVIO CONCEICAO
Deportivo, age 23.
The subject of a bitter transfer tussle between Depor and Real Madrid, the former Palmeiras midfielder has yet to make an impression since arriving in La Coruna in December at what looks like a wildly overpriced £4m. Zagallo is a big fan, though.

MAURO SILVA
Deportivo, age 29.
Midfield pivots don't come any more competitive on the park or less Brazilian off it (that's solid, reliable and stays at home). Fifty caps and a winner at USA 94.

BEBETO
Deportivo, age 33.
Rivaldo's sudden departure called for drastic measures. The flyweight goalscorer is a legend in La Coruna, but as a sequel this looks like a very bad idea.

DENILSON
Betis, age 20.
Practically unknown before Le Tournoi (he only made his Brazilian debut in April v Chile), the £22m Betis paid Sao Paulo for Denilson makes him the world's most expensive player at just 20 years of age. Back on loan in Brazil until after the World Cup finals, so Betis and Sao Paulo have taken out a £50m insurance policy on him. Some see him as a world beater à la Garrincha, others a flash in the pan. Only time will tell, but t he youngster certainly doesn't lack confidence.

"I'm as quick and skilful as they come," he boasts, "and the transfer fee is definitely not over the top.

"I could have gone to the club of my choice in Italy or Spain, but I know I've made the right decision. In a couple of year's time Betis will be one of the biggest clubs in Europe."

PALHINHA
Mallorca, age 29.
A consistently effective goalscorer in Brazil from in the hole behind the forwards, the 26-time international arrives at newly promoted Mallorca after inspiring Cruzeiro to their first Copa Libertadores in 21 years.

MAZINHO
Celta, age 31.
Another USA 94 winner, with 47 caps, he now holds Celta's midfield together with a combination of guile and grit after being prematurely discarded by Valencia.

ANDREI
Atletico Madrid, age 24.
A sharp-shooting, left-sided defender à la Roberto Carlos, he's quickly been converted into a ferocious stopper by Raddy Antic. An under-20 international.

FABIANO
Compostela, age 31.
Nearly a decade in Spain with first Celta and since 1992, Compostela. One of the League's most complete midfielders.

EDU
Valladolid, age 30.
Inspired Valladolid to a surprise UEFA Cup place last term. Will never kick the ball properly unless a back-heel is totally out of the question. Twenty-six caps, but a recent victim of Brazil's midfield overbooking.

Romario

Nice work...

Keir Radnedge examines the game's uneasy relationship with players' agents

PICK up the morning paper. Off the doormat. Off the newsagent's counter. Turn to the back page. There it is: "EXCLUSIVE: RONALDO FOR SPURS!"

How do they know that? Read the article. No official of Spurs is quoted. None of Ronaldo's multiplicity of advisers or lawyers or accountants is quoted. And yet there it is. A great story pulled, apparently, out of mid-air and on the way to coming true.

All thanks to a planted tip-off – or even sold at a high price – from the agent whose own professional status depends not only on the way he manages his client's football-linked finances but the promotional strength – publicity, image – he can create.

If money makes the world go round then, like or it or not, it's these controversial go-betweens who are making the football world go round. Every night they must kneel in front of the window and offer a prayer of thanks to St Bosman, patron saint of football agents.

When that journeyman professional from the Belgian Second Division launched his European Court offensive against the outdated, medieval employment restrictions governing professional football, he thought he was fighting to improve the lot of the common mass of players. So he was, to some extent. But the simultaneous explosion of football as a mass social passion plus the television cash revolution put a very different spin on subsequent events.

Western Europe's mainstream soccer nations quickly scrapped plainly illegal and unfair restrictions on employment rights, including cross-border transfers and foreign player barriers. Simultaneously, they also recognised that an employee has the right, within certain parameters, to move from one employer to another whenever he wishes. Thus countries such as Germany, France, Spain and Italy, which had rigidly controlled the few weeks in a year in which transfers were allowed, loosened the reins.

Within reason, players within the European Union can move whenever and wherever they like, subject to mutual satisfactory contractual arrangements, i.e. transfer fees, agreed within a contract or unnecessary on its expiry.

The brakes were off. All that remained was for a mechanism to facilitate the expanded transfer market. And the ideal mechanism already existed: the network of international agents. Men and women working busily in the background, making the phone calls, setting up the meetings, luring the sponsors, enticing the clubs.

In fact, reviewing the frenetic transfer activity over the past 18 months, it is hard to avoid the suspicion that much of the activity has been agent-driven. Most agents work on a percentage basis so the greater the financial activity, the greater the pay-off. This is a cynical downside of what has happened since Bosman. But the truth is that the football business could not run as it does without agents.

'Every night these controversial go-betweens must offer a prayer of thanks to St Bosman, patron saint of football agents'

So much the better for the game that FIFA moved three years ago – coincidentally – to try to formalise the agent system so as to bring some sort of order into shady chaos.

Every summer FIFA is assailed by complaints about transfer convulsions. The most common is when two clubs both believe they have signed the same player. Gordon Strachan was rapped over the knuckles once because both Manchester United and Koln claimed to have signed him. More recently, Sporting Lisbon and MSV Duisburg quarrelled over Nigeria's Emmanuel Amunike.

But FIFA will not have to deal with such matters for much longer. The duties will be devolved soon to the continental confederations rather than to the world body.

It's not only players who get caught up in these wrangles – it happens to coaches, too. In the early 1990s, Sven Goran Eriksson had agreed to return from Italy to Benfica while an agent had agreed, on his behalf, that he would take over Fiorentina. Eriksson, who would probably have preferred to stay in Italy, took the honorable course and fulfilled his promise to Benfica.

Most recently, of course, FIFA has had to adjudicate on the Ronaldo and Lizarazu cases. The problem was the same in each. The players' contracts with Barcelona and Bilbao respectively included a buy-out clause which had been activated at the behest of foreign clubs (Internazionale and Bayern Munich respectively). FIFA ruled that the buy-out valuation could not be directly equated with a transfer fee assessment. But, for fear of a legal backlash, it imposed top-up payment orders of only comparatively minimal weight.

Ronaldo's trio of agents cried all the way to the bank. They have an extra-special interest in their client because they own a share in the player, which they bought for a derisory £5,000 six years ago. Each time he was sold – for £4.5m to PSV in 1994, for £12m to Barcelona in 1996, for £19.5m to Inter this summer – their stakeholding rocketed in value.

Now, FIFA's original aim in setting up its agents control system was to reduce the number of transfer wrangles. What happens is this: agents must deposit a bond worth £100,000 with FIFA and be assessed as a trustworthy sort by the federation of the country in which he or she is based. That includes a minimum of five years' residence in a country and the need to 'pass' an interview with national federation officials.

AGENTS who are not approved must not be involved in any direct negotiation; if this rule is contravened then the club(s) and/or federations(s) and/or player(s) concerned risk heavy financial punishment, suspension or a six-month ban from all transfer activity.

The Thierry Henry case was exemplary. Real Madrid negotiated a pre-end-of-season transfer agreement with the Monaco starlet. His apprentice's contract was expiring in July of this year and such players can be approached by another club during the last six months of its term. Madrid's mistake was to work through an agent, Michel Basilevich, who is not FIFA-approved.

The end result was that Monaco, who then negotiated a 'proper' new contract with Henry, complained to FIFA. Madrid were fined £50,000 for using an unapproved agent and Basilevich was declared *persona non grata* (the most FIFA could do, considering that it has no professional or legal jurisdiction over his activities).

Why did Madrid work through Basilevich? Easy. He is one of the longest-serving agents in Europe. For years he was associated with Johan Cruyff during his Barcelona playing days.

He is well-known, has excellent connections and besides, despite FIFA's best efforts, there is still something of a grey area surrounding the agents' world.

In one sense, there has to be.

They could not operate under the bright lights of open accountability. Nor would clubs or managers want them to. Why do you think a manager denies an interest in a player right up until a minute before he signs on the dotted line? Simple: because an open admission of interest is as good as an invitation for other clubs to jump in. For example, Tottenham were proclaimed front-runners in the race to sign Fabrizio Ravanelli...so Marseille dropped their pursuit of Espanyol's Nicolas Ouedec like a hot brick and snatched Ravanelli away while Alan Sugar was awaiting his arrival in the White Hart Lane boardroom.

That's why secrecy matters.

Do not be fooled by Eric Hall's larger-than-life image, much though it contrasts with other agents working in English football such as Dennis Roach (whose biggest break, working with Cruyff, followed a chance meeting on a beach), Tony Stephens (guiding hand behind David Platt and Alan Shearer) and Jonathan Holmes (for Gary Lineker). Hall can work as quietly and efficiently as anyone, and his long list of clients in showbiz and football speak volumes for his methods.

The grey area envelops not merely the work agents do but those people on the fringe of having agent status. Throughout the sagas concerning Paul Gascoigne's transfer to Lazio and back, key roles were played by Mel Stein and Len Lazarus, respectively his solicitor and accountant but very keen to stress that they are NOT agents but mere 'professional advisers'. Read Jane Nottage's account of life as Gazza's Roman minder and it's difficult to see the dividing line.

Indeed, in this litigious age, FIFA has now engaged its own specialist lawyer to help cope with the complications of the agent control system. Michel Zen Ruffinen, deputy to FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter and the man in charge of the agents' charter, recognises the problem, saying: "It is difficult to tell whether an unapproved agent took a central role in helping negotiate a transfer or whether he was involved merely as a friendly adviser to the player."

Certainly a French court failed to spot the difference earlier this year when Stein and Lazarus, to their anger, were sentenced after being found guilty in their absence over payments made by Bernard Tapie's scandal-ridden Marseille to Chris Waddle, whom Stein and Lazarus had advised.

Players' attitudes vary. Most appreciate what an agent can do for them. As British agent Rachel Anderson has said: "If a player thinks he can do better himself, he only tries it once. When he gets into the dressing room he soon finds out what he's missed."

There are exceptions. Jurgen Klinsmann is one. He has famously developed a career in which he has always moved for more money than he was getting at his last club. But Klinsmann is not, despite the legend, a one-man show. He leans heavily, come transfer time, on the Swiss lawyer-cum-agent Christian Gross.

OTHER players are in partnership, both at work and at home, with their wives. These have included, notably, Germany's Bernd Schuster and Bodo Illgner. As for Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff, he is in the care of his father, Jean, a former international.

'Family' agents may not always make the right decisions (Thierry Henry's father was deeply involved in the Real Madrid foul-up) but they do not run the same dangers as full-time 'impresarios'. The very nature of their hide-and-seek business carries its own risk. Some agents concentrate on arranging club and national team tours as their bread and butter. Transfer work is icing on the cake. But the ease with which agents can slip in and out of clubs, federations, dressing rooms and boardrooms can bring its own difficulties.

'It is hard to avoid the suspicion that much of the frenetic transfer activity over the past 18 months has been agent-driven'

The Marseille case brought those dangers out into the open as well as attaching to agents in general a stigma many do not deserve. Marseille, under Tapie, employed agents such as Manuel Barbosa, Spyros Karageorgiou, Alain Migliaccio and Ljubomir Barin to help launder money and then use it to bribe referees and opposing players, lure other players with under-the-counter cash and generally subvert the integrity of the professional game.

Agents infiltrated football, crossing over from show business, in the early 1970s when sponsorship began developing. At first their role was to put player and sponsor together. Soon it became obvious to the brighter ones that footballers were, to a large extent, manipulated financially and contractually by the clubs. They set about turning the tables and generally raising the price of the game. A good agent obtains a higher pay rate and a bigger signing-on fee – all of which has to be reflected in the size of the money the game demands from television rights and the fan at the gate.

Sometimes, it is not the player who pays the agent but the club. Then, as the Tapie trial demonstrated, the agents can be suborned – undertaking work for the club who is paying them a steady wage based on the earnings of the player he has brought aboard.

The agent can know too much for his own good. Barbosa, for example, negotiated the transfer of Brazilian defender Carlos Mozer from Benfica to Marseille. Officially, the transfer fee paid was £2.75million. Of that, £2million went to Benfica as transfer fee; £100,000 went to Barbosa as commission; and the remaining £650,000 went to Mozer as signing-on fee.

Once involved in that side of the business, Barbosa was – whether he liked it or not – in Tapie's power.

Similarly, Norwegian Rune Hauge – negotiating player sales to English clubs – hived off some of the cash for his own use, most notably in his £400,000 gift to then Arsenal boss George Graham as a "gesture of thanks" for helping in the transfers to Highbury of Dane John Jensen and Norwegian Pal Lydersen.

The top agents do not have a cushy life. Switzerland's Vinicio Fioranelli estimated recently that he often worked 17 hours a day. "It's necessary," he says. "If you do not have your finger on the pulse of the game, you are no good as an agent."

Although agents such as Ronaldo's Branchini achieve fame in the stratosphere of the game, they have to be aware of the lower end of the scale. Indeed, Jurgen Milewski, the ex-Hamburg forward who is now one of Germany's top agents, says: "It's almost more important for young players to take advantage of our help than for older players."

Stakeholder...Branchini owns a share of Ronaldo

Not that players always get the right advice. Agents insist that, by relieving the player of the day-to-day burden of finance and business, they allow him to play better. It does not always work like that in practice.

When Sean Dundee was scoring a hatful of goals for Karlsruhe last season, agents Hans Georg Hinderling and Alexander Wacker lined up a summer move to Borussia Dortmund. Terms were in the process of being agreed when Dundee's goal touch deserted him. Karlsruhe, furious, blamed the transfer dealing and ordered Dundee to sack his agents.

Another piece of agent interference arose in the summer dealings for the world-record transfer of Brazilian Denilson. He appeared poised to join Barcelona but the deal collapsed when his agent demanded £3million for his role in the business.

Nice work if you can get it!

LICENSED TO WORK

There are 286 FIFA-approved licensed agents, based in 35 countries. Their geographic breakdown is as follows:

England	47	Yugoslavia	2
Germany	35	Croatia	1
Spain	29	S Korea	3
France	23	Denmark	2
Italy	20	Romania	2
Switzerland	16	Czech Rep	2
Belgium	13	Hungary	2
Scotland	13	Uruguay	2
Holland	11	Albania	1
Portugal	13	Australia	1
Argentina	8	Bulgaria	1
Norway	7	Chile	1
Brazil	5	Japan	1
Greece	3	Paraguay	1
Israel	5	Poland	1
Austria	5	Slovakia	1
Sweden	4	UAE	1
United States	4		

Top of the tree

Paul Gardner reports from Egypt on more success for Brazil

YET ANOTHER world title for Brazil, and their first at Under-17 level. Their 2-1 win over Ghana in the Final means that, of football's five world titles – World Cup, Olympics, U-20, U-17 and indoor (futsal) – only the Olympics has escaped Brazil's grasp.

From the start of this tournament, in Egypt, Brazil impressed as a powerful, complete team. They started with an overwhelming 7-0 obliteration of Austria, Europe's number two team. "It could have been 12-0," admitted Austrian coach Paul Gludovatz afterwards.

The best of the bunch for Brazil? Inevitably the No 10, a young man with silky skills and the fashionable name of Ronaldo.

The USA (3-0) and Oman (3-1) were swept aside before the arch-nemesis loomed in the quarter-final: Argentina. No problems this time, a comfortable 2-0 win, and on to face the solid Germans in the semi-final.

That the Germans had got that far owed much to an incredible escape in the first game against Chile, when they survived a constant second-half barrage, and broke away to score the only goal.

In the quarter-final against Mali, the Germans held off their strong, speedy opponents for 120 minutes and a 0-0 result, then took the shoot-out, converting all their penalty shots.

Implacable defence was to be the order of the day against Brazil, but after two minutes the German game plan was in tatters. Under pressure, goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller punched out a free-kick – straight to Adiel, who hit a 20-yard volley into the roof of the net.

Yet the German game plan did not change. It was still defence, defence, with the occasional counter-attack. Brazil kept going forward but the score remained 1-0 until the 85th minute, when the dam burst. Three minutes later the score was 4-0, with goals from Matuzalem, captain Ferrugem, and a penalty from Ronaldo.

If there was a weakness in this Brazil team, it was well hidden. In five games the defence, splendidly led by Gaviao, conceded only one goal. At the other end, 19 were scored by an attack in which centre-forward Fabio Pinto and Ronaldo stood out. Add midfielder Matuzalem, who seemed to be everywhere, and a dangerous substitute in Geovanni…who would stop them?

Ghana were the obvious threat. They had won the title two years ago in Ecuador – beating Brazil 3-2 in the final. The scoreline looks close, but Ghana were the dominant team throughout. During this tournament they looked less convincing, but only a 0-0 draw with Argentina spoiled their 100 per cent record on the way to the Final. And they displayed that tournament essential of looking better with every game played.

'The game was very hard, but the heart was stronger than everything. Even with 10 men, they always believed they were going to win' – Brazil coach Carlos Cesar

Until the semi-final, that is. There Ghana ran into a gritty performance from Spain, who took a 1-0 lead and troubled the Ghana defence throughout before going down 2-1.

Spain were beaten 1-0 by Ghana in the 1991 Final in Italy, and coach Juan Santisteban complained bitterly that the winners had included over-age players.

Santisteban repeated the protest against the 1997 team, declaring "Ghana is well-known for bringing older players", and claiming he recognised at least eight players "who were members of the 1991 team".

Whatever, the Ghanaians were in the Final, where they would throw everything at the Brazilians. That is the essence of Ghana's game: relentless, powerful, speedy, skilful attack. The running and the stamina are remarkable, but no less so than the ball-control and the ferocious shooting.

A weakness? Jack Warner, president of CONCACAF, put his finger on a possible flaw: "It's so frantic, so one-paced, never a pause or a change of speed." Sir Bobby Charlton, FIFA's Fair Play ambassador, detected another: "It's attack, attack – they don't really know how to defend."

In the Final, for the first 45 minutes, such criticisms seemed beside the point. Yes, there were occasional warnings from Brazil – in particular Ronaldo's snap-shot that forced a great save from Osei Boateng – but the game was Ghana's. The sheer weight of their attacks seemed to be wearing Brazil down. The speed and beauty of the Ghana interpassing was wonderful to behold, and it was climaxed with a superb goal in the 40th minute. The ball was played quickly out of defence to Wisdom Abbey racing down the right wing. His cross threaded its way perfectly through the scrambling defenders to Owusu Afriyie, closing in from the left, and his first time shot sped under the goalkeeper Fabio.

The ball had never ceased moving, had never left the ground, had never been touched by a Brazilian. For the first time in the tournament, Brazil were a goal down.

Their response was symbolised by Matuzalem, barely noticeable in the first half as he plied his defensive skill, but much more effective when he switched to attack. Within 20 seconds he had won a corner. Four minutes later, after some magic in the area by Diogo had bamboozled the defenders, Matuzalem's shot was just finger-tipped away by Boateng.

A fired-up Geovanni then went on, and Ghana's problems multiplied. After testing Boateng with a header from Matuzalem's cross, he hit a scorching shot from 30 yards that rebounded down from the bar and came out.

Then came a piece of great skill from Ronaldo that led to the equaliser. With his path to goal blocked by three defenders, he simply scooped the ball over their heads, and ran through. When his shot rebounded off the goal-keeper, there was the marauding Matuzalem to apply the finishing touch.

The Ghanaians didn't – or was it couldn't? – change their storm-the-barricades style. It was no longer good enough, too predictable.

With 15 minutes to go, Brazil's Fabio Pinto lost his cool and elbowed Dan Quaye in the face. Out came referee Terje Hauge's red card. But the sending-off seemed to give Brazil a tactical advantage, as Geovanni moved up front and caused all sorts of problems.

With five minutes to go Ronaldo split the defence with a through ball to the right, and Andrey chipped over Boateng for the winning goal. The goal and celebration were too much for Andrey, the smallest player on the field – he was substituted immediately and collapsed in a heap as he stepped off.

For Ghana, everything was now even more hurried and frantic, their one-pace attacks getting nowhere, their long-distance shooting hopelessly wild.

The Brazilians – more resourceful, more subtle, more football-wise – were champions. "I know my players," coach Carlos Cesar said later. "The game was very hard, but the heart was stronger than everything. Even with 10 men, they always believed they were going to win."

Top ten...Brazil's Ronaldo was one of the outstanding players of the tournament

Age is the main concern

THE FOOTBALL on show in Egypt, as always at this level, was exciting and eventful, with the emphasis on attack and an average of 3.66 goals per game.

Spectator interest, never guaranteed at this age level, was phenomenal – when Egypt were playing. Their games helped to fill the National Stadium in Cairo with 80,000 fans. But the same stadium had only 7,000 for the Germany-Mali quarter-final.

The average attendance for the tournament of 23,750 per game was no doubt artificially high – most crowds included large sections occupied by masses of soldiers.

It was another good U-17 World Cup for the Latins and for Africa and another poor one for Europe, or rather for northern Europe.

So poor was Austria's performance (three losses, one goal scored, 14 conceded) that their only satisfaction came when Spain beat New Zealand 13-0. It meant that New Zealand, not Austria, would be the tournament's worst team.

The poor technical level of the Austrian and German players was a surprise. When asked what that might mean for the future, Brazilian coach Carlos Cesar replied: "The best players will come from South America, as now, but maybe Africa will be second, with Europe third."

"No," said Paul Gludovatz, coach of Austria. "Not in the future. Now. That is the reality now."

But the Europeans profess not to be worried about this. "I see no cause for alarm," said Scotsman David Will, chairman of FIFA's Referees' Committee.

"We've seen this difference too often before at this level. You can say the future for Germany and Austria looks worrying, but that's not the way it works out."

"For some reason the non-Latin players develop a little more slowly. Germany, and possibly Austria, are still going to be footballing powers at senior level."

"This difference in skill levels is not new," said Jean-Pierre Morlans, coach of the French U-16 team, and a member of FIFA's Technical Study Group. "Certainly the difference is now more marked, at this age level. But I'm not sure what this means for later age levels."

Age is a problem with this event, and suspicions persist that some countries – the Asian and African countries are targeted – are using over-age players. Before the tournament, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter had pronounced the matter "a dead issue" as far as FIFA was concerned. FIFA now demands both birth certificate and passport, and threatens severe punishment – including exclusion from the World Cup itself – to any country found cheating.

But the matter is far from dead. Juan Santisteban's outburst after his team had lost to Ghana was a public airing of what most of the European and South American coaches express off the record. They remain strongly suspicious.

FIFA feels that it has done as much as it can. Some suggest that x-ray tests of the wrist bones are the answer, but such tests have a margin of error of 13 months, making them virtually useless.

CONCACAF's Jack Warner is worried about the matter and says that the confederations and the national associations should be obliged to do what CONCACAF did over a four-year span in the early 1990s, when Mexico and Costa Rica had used over-age players.

"You have to send investigators to talk to the school authorities, to the church, to find out about the boyhood times of these players," said Warner.

Bernd Stober, coach of the German team, not only casts doubt on the significance of results at this level. He goes further, and questions the advisability of having a U-17 World Cup at all: "Sometimes I have this feeling that it would be better not to play a world championship, that it is not a good way to develop players.

"Of course it is good to play teams like Mali, Egypt and Brazil, but I think it would be better if they were friendly games. Too much pressure to win, too much mental pressure is not good for development."

Not a good way to develop players? There is some statistical evidence to back up that suggestion: FIFA's own list of players who have played in previous editions of this tournament and then gone on to full national team status. It is not wildly impressive.

Just three names (none of them outstanding) for Brazil, four for Argentina, none for Germany, three for the USA.

The totals underline the accepted wisdom that it is very difficult to predict whether a 16-year-old star will still be a star at 18 or 25.

Something further underlined by the fact that 1993 was the only year in which Brazil failed to qualify for the tournament – with a team that included *the* Ronaldo!

The meagre totals also undermine any notion that the U-17 World Cup is a good way of blooding future internationals.

The questions and the doubts leave the U-17 World Cup at a crossroads. Can the age controversy be satisfactorily resolved? Even if it is, there remains the crucial question: what purpose does the tournament have?

Paul Gardner

AWARDS

Golden Shoe (top scorer):
David (Spain) 7 goals
Silver Shoe:
Mohamed Hashim Saleh (Oman) 5 goals
Bronze Shoe:
Fabio Pinto (Brazil) 4 goals
Golden Ball (Most valuable player):
Sergio (Spain)
Silver Ball:
Fabio Pinto (Brazil)
Bronze Ball:
Owusu Afriyie (Ghana)
FIFA Fair Play Trophy:
Argentina

MASTERCARD TOURNAMENT ALL-STAR TEAM

RESULTS

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A (CAIRO)

Egypt 3 Thailand 2
Germany 1 Chile 0
Egypt 1 Chile 1
Germany 3 Thailand 0
Egypt 1 Germany 1
Chile 6 Thailand 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Egypt	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Chile	3	1	1	1	7	4	4
Thailand	3	0	0	3	4	12	0

GROUP B (ISMAILYA)

Mali 4 New Zealand 0
Spain 3 Mexico 2
Spain 1 Mali 0
Mexico 5 New Zealand 0
Spain 13 New Zealand 0
Mali 3 Mexico 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	17	2	9
Mali	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Mexico	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
New Zealand	3	0	0	3	0	22	0

GROUP C (ALEXANDRIA)

Oman 4 USA 0
Brazil 7 Austria 0
Brazil 3 USA 0
Oman 3 Austria 1
Brazil 3 Oman 1
USA 4 Austria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Oman	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
USA	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Austria	3	0	0	3	1	14	0

GROUP D (PORT SAID)

Argentina 0 Ghana 0
Bahrain 3 Costa Rica 1
Ghana 5 Bahrain 1
Argentina 1 Costa Rica 0
Argentina 2 Bahrain 0
Ghana 2 Costa Rica 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Argentina	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Bahrain	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

QUARTER-FINALS (14/15.09.97)

Germany 0 Mali 0
Aet. Germany win 4-3 penalties
Brazil 2 Argentina 0
Ghana 4 Oman 1
Spain 2 Egypt 1

SEMI-FINALS (18.09.97)

Brazil 4 Germany 0
Ghana 2 Spain 1

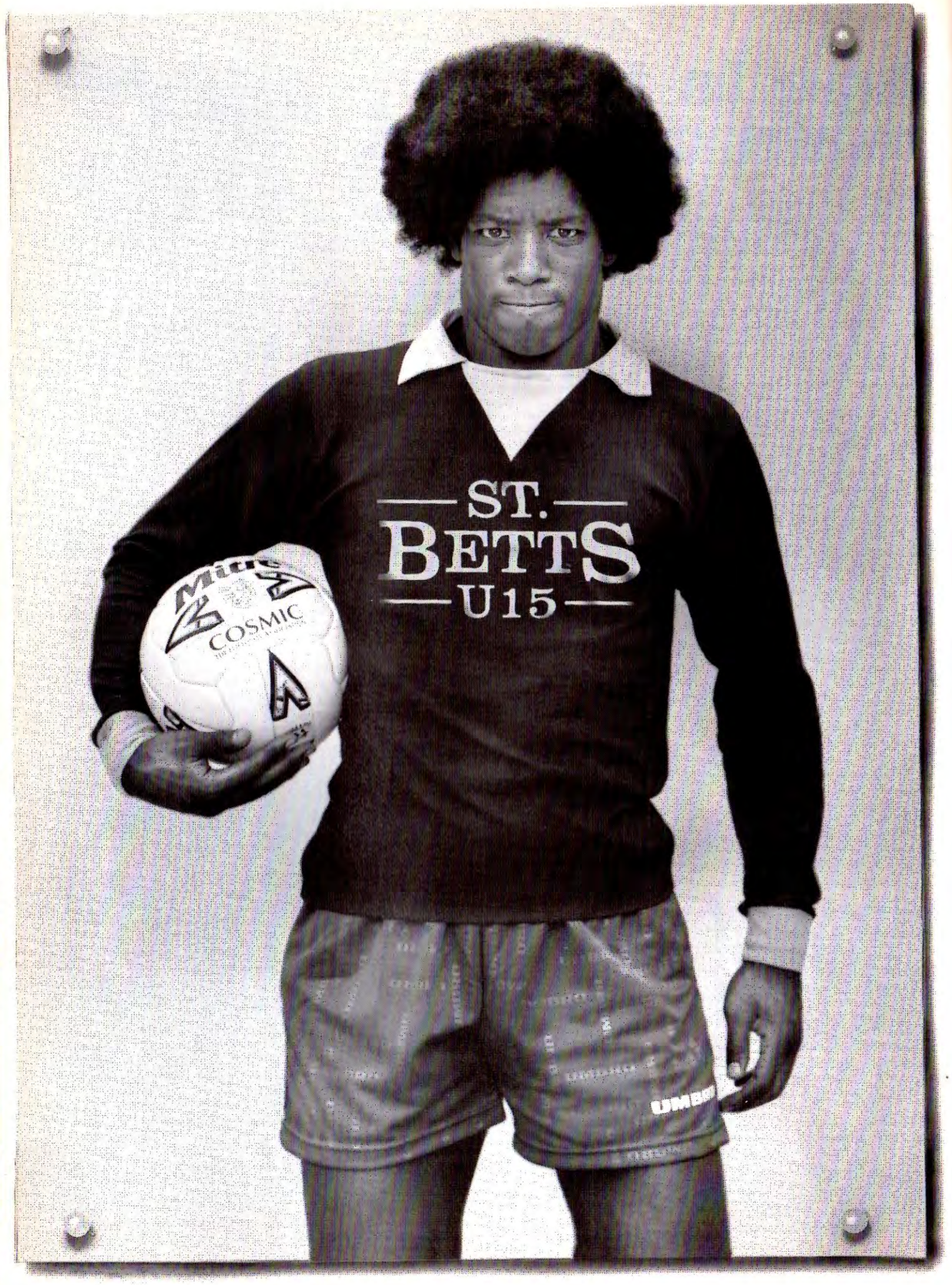
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF (21.09.97)

Spain 2 Germany 1

FINAL (21.09.97)

Brazil 2 Ghana 1

● Full results and squads in World Service, starting page 59.



THE FA SUGGESTED

I GO BACK TO SCHOOL.

FORTUNATELY, IT WAS TO LEARN HOW THEY TEACH FOOTBALL.

I DIDN'T KNOW if I should be flattered or offended. '*Wrighty,*' they said *(Coz they call me that at The FA).* 'You're a big kid. Have a look at our plans for football education and let us know what you think'.

HONESTLY, some people come away from Lancaster Gate with a fine or suspension.

Me? I get homework.

Anyway, they gave me a copy of The Football Association's new plan for action. Naturally I thought it would be boring, outdated and irrelevant.

Well, Ian Wrong, Wrong, Wrong.

It was the most dynamic document I've ever seen about English Football. Howard Wilkinson has taken apart the way we teach our kids to play football and reassembled it in such a way that you can only feel optimistic about the future of our national game.

With his *Charter for Quality,* Howard's moulded a plan for education and training that could be one of the best in the world.

A plan that will see the creation of Football Academies and Centres of Excellence throughout the country, where youngsters will be educated in Football from 8 years to the ripe old age of 21.

Each centre will be run in partnership with the Premier and Football League clubs, providing continuity, professionalism and commitment at a local and national level. Three hundred new coaches, teachers and medical staff will also be employed in the biggest programme of investment ever to hit the sport.

Of course, like every revolution, it's based on a solid philosophy.

Howard passionately believes that youngsters should not only play football, but LEARN football.

He argues that by concentrating on skills in small-sided games (and fewer of them) we'll encourage the flair and ability that we see so often in players from abroad.

In effect, he's taking the best of the existing FA youth policy, building on it and making it far more widely available.

Which made me wonder. ***What's it like to have the benefit of a footballing education?***

I ASKED a couple of my England mates and North London rivals, Ian Walker and Sol Campbell, both graduates of The FA teaching system. I wanted to know what they felt they'd got from their schooling (apart from the dodgy haircut, Ian).

SOL HAD NO DOUBTS. *'Imagine taking the best 15 and 16 years olds'* HE TOLD ME. *'Put sixteen of them together with some of the most talented coaches in the country, even give them their first taste of International football at Under-16 level in UEFA competitions and the World Youth Championships, and you'll produce a bunch of players with the experience, maturity and discipline to cope at the highest professional level.'*

What was that word you used Sol? Discipline?

'Absolutely,' ADDS IAN. *'You learn very quickly that you're an ambassador for both The FA and the game. The way you behave is as much a part of the curriculum as the way you save a penalty.'*

Okay. But if you're spending more time polishing your ball skills, doesn't your Maths, Geography and Biology go out the window.

'If only' CRIES SOL. *'The FA ensure that not one normal lesson is sacrificed. They still educate your mind as well as your feet.'*

'Believe it or not, the FA kids actually achieve above average academic results,' CHIPS IN PROFESSOR WALKER.

Of course, Sol and Ian aren't the only FA graduates to have made the big time. In fact, you could make up an entire Premiership eleven of 'old boys', whose current value would be worth around £30 million.

Not a bad return on the three million pounds The Football Association has invested in education since 1984. And not a bad starting-point for Howard Wilkinson's Charter for Quality.

In a way, I envy Sol, Ian and the youngsters who'll benefit from the new schemes. As one who came late to the game and spent too much of his schooling being told that football wasn't a real career, I missed the direction and encouragement that these guys will end up taking for granted.

You see, although I made it in the end, I'm an exception to the rule.

I'd bet there must be hundreds of other Ian Wrights in Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester and any part of England where you can place two jumpers on the ground and call it a goal.

Boys and girls who live for football and have the raw ability to excite the crowd and touch greatness, but were destined to remain undiscovered.

Why? Because - except for the select few - the structure wasn't there, the system wasn't in place, the future - quite simply - didn't exist.

That's why, when I hear Howard Wilkinson's plans for the kids who will inherit this precious game, I think, if it can stop one more boy or girl slipping through the net and away from the game, then it's got to be a cause worth fighting for.

I get a good feeling when I hear what The Football Association want to do with the next generation.

It's music to my ears. And it makes this little boy's heart beat just that little bit faster.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ITALY

A city of two tales

Paddy Agnew on the mixed fortunes of Milan's big two

HAD A passer-by dropped into a well-known Brazilian restaurant in Milan in the early hours one September morning, they would have been amazed to discover the members of Inter's multinational, multi-millionaire squad busy throwing cake at one another like children in a primary school canteen.

Ostensibly, the party was a birthday celebration for the club's most famous new son – Brazilian Ronaldo, who turned 21 on September 22. But it was also a celebration of Inter's unexpectedly successful start to the season.

After only three rounds of Serie A, Inter found themselves out in front as the only side with a 100 per cent record. Furthermore, those three League wins were interspersed with two Italian Cup wins against Foggia and a UEFA Cup win against Swiss side Neuchatel.

Given such a start, you might have expected the mood up at Inter's training headquarters of Appiano Gentile to be distinctly upbeat. Not so. On the day after the 'birthday' party, reporters were confronted with grim-faced players and officials telling them the club was staging a "media blackout".

In Italian soccer, a press blackout usually comes in the wake of bad results. Yet here we had the League leaders deciding that they had been receiving unfair treatment from the media.

The problem, of course, is that while Inter have started on a winning note, they have failed to convince everyone. On the first day of the season, for example, they were losing 1-0 at home to Brescia with 20 minutes to play when two brilliant, individual goals from Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba gave Inter an unlikely victory.

The ire of the Inter clan, however, was definitively roused by the media reaction to their 3-2 home win against Fiorentina in the third game of the season. This match had been billed not only as a confrontation between two of the most powerful sharpshooters in the modern game, Fiorentina's Argentine Gabriel Batistuta v Ronaldo, but also as a first serious test for Inter. The consensus media verdict was that Inter had won the match but failed the test.

"Wizard Inter: Fiorentina dominate, hit the post three times but Inter steal it," went a front page headline in the Milan sports daily, *Gazzetta Dello Sport*. Writing in the Rome daily, *La Repubblica*, the astute Gianni Mura spelt it out even more clearly: "Inter's leadership of Serie A is hard to explain. Apart from Ronaldo, there's not much about the side that actually works."

In justifying their subsequent press silence, the Inter players claimed they had been annoyed, not by the faint and damning praise for their exploits, but by the hype provoked by a crude, late tackle on Fiorentina's Russian winger, Andrei Kanchelskis, by Inter's Nigerian defender, Taribo West. Maybe. Perhaps, too, Inter know only too well that the criticism of the poor quality of their game is quite justified.

For the time being, however, the £30million gamble on Ronaldo (and the not inconsiderable gamble on players such as Recoba, Argentine Diego Simeone, Brazilian Ze Elias, West etc) has paid off. Inter may not be playing well but they have made the most of their luck. When they begin to play well, we may see some real fireworks.

Across the city, Milan are the side that should be staging a press blackout. It was some indication of their difficult start that a 2-0 Italian Cup away win against Second Division Reggiana was greeted with massive relief. Coming after League draws with Piacenza and Lazio, and a 2-1 defeat by Udinese, the win was indeed badly needed, a point underlined by coach Fabio Capello.

"We've taken a big step forward," he said. "It was important to remove the mental block and this win will do a lot for our morale."

For the time being, the new-look Milan has yet to settle down, with players such as German Christian Ziege, Brazilian Andrew Cruz, Dutchman Winston Bogarde and Frenchman Ibrahim Ba still struggling to understand the tactical requirements both of Italian soccer and of Capello. However, an ominous sign for Milan's rivals is the impressive attacking partnership already forged between Liberian George Weah and new boy, Dutchman Patrick Kluivert.

Against Lazio, Milan played at least half an hour's worth of sparkling soccer and the suspicion is that their slow start is misleading. Indicative of the cautious optimism at the club was owner Silvio Berlusconi's observation: "I don't envy Inter anything, although I wouldn't mind their position in the League table."

While Milan look good but drop points and while Inter play badly but continue to get results, Juventus carry on in predictably consistent fashion.

Four days after they had given Feyenoord a 5-1 drubbing in the Champions League, they turned over Brescia 4-0. Following the game, coach Marcello Lippi allowed himself a satisfied comment: "This was a good afternoon's work and we showed one more time what was obvious against Feyenoord, namely that we're getting better all the time."

As for the rest of Serie A, these are still early days. Parma have started well, while Fiorentina surprised even themselves with their fine performance against Inter and, for the time being, have played themselves back into championship considerations. Roma and Lazio, have looked occasionally brilliant and regularly lethargic, but both have improvement in them and cannot yet be lightly dismissed.

Of the others, keep an eye on Sampdoria who have yet to get good results but have already shaped into a good side under the astute guidance of Argentine coach Cesar Luis Menotti.

Pro-file Dario Hubner

'Unknown' Brescia striker makes his mark

Club Brescia
Country Italy
Born April 28, 1967, in Muggia
Previous clubs Treviso, Pievignina, Pordenone, Fano, Cesena
Honours None

INTERNATIONAL sports media attention focussed long and hard on San Siro stadium in Milan when a certain Ronaldo Luiz Nazario Lima made his Serie A debut for Internazionale, against Brescia.

Inevitably, given all the pre-match hype, Ronaldo failed to score. Those who had turned up to see the Brazilian strut his goalscoring stuff found instead that they were treated to the brilliance of Inter's Uruguayan international Alvaro Recoba and to the sharpshooting skills of Brescia's Dario Hubner in the 2-1 Inter win. Dario who? You might well ask.

Six days later, Hubner was again on target, hitting all Brescia's goals in a remarkable 3-3 home draw with Sampdoria. At the ripe old age of 30, and in his first season in Serie A, Hubner had hit four goals in two games for a side who, even at this early stage, are odds-on for an immediate return to the Second Division from which they won promotion last season. Furthermore, Hubner found himself second in the scoring chart, one behind Gabriel Batistuta of Fiorentina.

Has a great new Austrian or German talent been discovered late in his career? Will Hubner still make it into the calculations for next summer's World Cup in France?

The answers are no and no again. For one, Hubner is Italian, born into a family with Austro-Hungarian lineage in the village of Muggia, close to the old Austro-Hungarian port of Trieste on the Adriatic.

For two, Italy's Cesare Maldini has no shortage of talent up front for Italy. Not that Hubner is losing sleep about the issue. His sensational start in Serie A may have surprised many, but not him; he points out that he was a regular scorer throughout his lower-division career.

"I've always scored a lot of goals. In five seasons with Cesena, I scored 74 and some of them were both better and more important than the ones I scored against Inter and Sampdoria. As for the Italian team, I'll be shouting for them, along with every other Italian. I don't even think about being called up."

Hubner's soccer story is one of long, slow and steady progress. Having left school at 15, he became an apprentice window fitter, playing soccer at the weekend for fun. He was still a Sunday kick-around player when part-time side Treviso offered him a contract, and 20-year-old Hubner handed in his cards there and then.

By 1992, Hubner had arrived in Division Two with Cesena and he remained there until this summer, when signed by Brescia.

The fact that his new club had to pay out just over £1million for him would suggest that Division Two scouts had a high opinion of him, 30 years of age or not.

Off the pitch he has an unlikely obssession with the late Freddy Mercury. He has visited the singer's London home and the crematorium where he was cremated.

Hubner knows only too well that times may prove tough for Brescia in Serie A. Yet despite a poor start – one point in the first three games – he still hopes to help his side achieve the all-too-obvious objective: Serie A survival.

"I've already been relegated two times, with Fano and Cesena," he says. "On the evening of May 10 I still want to be a Serie A player.

"A centre-forward has to battle away. The law of the penalty area is tough but I accept that. You give them and you take them. If a guy has deliberately tried to foul me then I return the compliment... These days, though, I'm a quieter player. There was a time when I was much more aggressive and impulsive and I was always getting fined and suspended."

Paddy Agnew

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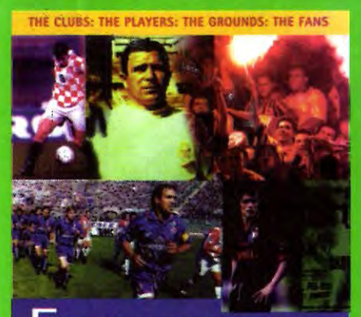

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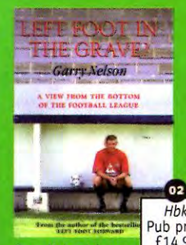

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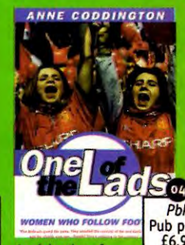

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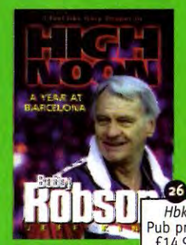

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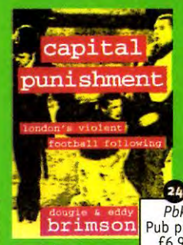

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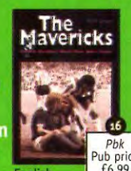

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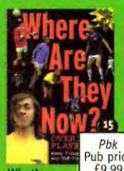

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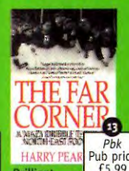

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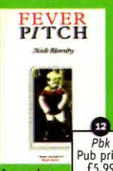

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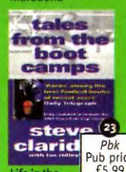

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SPAIN

The karaoke king

Graham Turner on how Javier Clemente guided the Spanish surge to France 98

THEY NEVER miss karaoke night at the pub, but will they ever get up and sing? The Spaniards have been humming away with the background music at every World Cup since 1978, but after occasional outbursts of inspired yodelling they have always suffered an embarrassing loss of voice around, at the latest, the quarter-final phase.

They seem to be accompanied by two fat ladies who are desperate to get their singing done and head back home. But now Spain have made an advance booking for the 1998 sing-song, with a game to spare, and the question is whether the Clemente Chorus can travel to France without getting another frog in the throat.

The omens look good. The Spaniards came through a tough qualifying group with flying colours – beating Slovakia in Bratislava, where no other visitors had managed to win, and extending their unbeaten run to 29 games.

Spain's last defeat in regular time was the 1994 quarter-final against Italy, and Clemente's overall record since he took over in September 1992 is three defeats in 54 games. He is the only national team manager ever to lead Spain into two consecutive World Cups.

After the 2-1 win in Bratislava, Angel Maria Villar, the president of the Spanish federation who was on UEFA Executive Committee duty in Helsinki, grabbed the phone and shouted: "Javi, you're the number one."

Villar's jubilation came in spite of a result which cost the federation an arm and several legs. Up until Bratislava, the federation had not coughed up a single peseta, because no bonuses would have been due had Spain not qualified. Now they have to pay out a basic fee of £1,300 for every match played, plus a bonus of £6,000. To you, £1.3million.

Andoni Zubizarreta, the only man to have played in every match, will therefore receive around £73,000, and there will be more to come if the team surmount that hitherto impassable barrier of the quarter-finals. But Villar's smile was the smile of a man who had wisely taken out an insurance policy against success...

Spain were wretchedly unlucky to lose the Euro 96 quarter-final at Wembley, though England were performing so well that the critics seemed to feel that justice – however rough – had been done. Since then, Clemente has added new talent to the squad and there is solid evidence to support allegations that there is plenty more to come.

Spain have won the European Under-16 championship, taken the bronze medal in the Under-17 World Cup and reached the final of the Meridian Cup in recent months, and during the past three seasons they have produced a series of memorable performances at Under-18 level. By winning 4-3 in Slovakia, the Under-21 side qualified for the European Championship finals with serious hopes of improving on the second place gained in 1996.

Yet Clemente is not regarding the future through red-and-blue-tinted spectacles. The foreign invasion has left the promising youngsters with scant opportunities to prove they are more than promising youngsters, and established first-teamers struggling for a chance to play first-team football at their clubs.

In Bratislava, he fielded Albert Ferrer, who had played only 29 minutes of League football for Barcelona all season, and Guillermo Amor (scorer of the winning goal with his left thigh), whose starting position is either the bench or the main stand. Clemente's main striker, Juan Antonio Pizzi of Barca, is even further from juxtaposing apple and Louis Van Gaal's eye.

Hence the debuts, in Bratislava, for Atletico Madrid right-back Carlos Aguilera and Betis striker Oli. Time – and results in France – will determine whether lack of match practice is a handicap or freshness is a virtue. Experience could be a virtue, too: 16 of the players who look dead certs for France were at Euro 96 and 12 were at the 1994 World Cup.

In other latitudes, Clemente's record would make him a local deity. In Spain the incredible run of results has served only to make fans and critics demand more. Apart from his perennial run-ins with sectors of the media, he is under fire for not adding attractive football to results and for "over-use of central defenders".

He used seven in his line-up during the 1994 World Cup. In Bratislava, he fielded Alkorta, Rios and Nadal across the back, with Hierro playing the anchor role in midfield which he has abandoned at club level since Jupp Heynckes sent him into the back four at Real Madrid.

Clemente also has been accused of not squeezing the creative best out of superb talents such as Alfonso, Kiko and Raul. But it is easy to remember ball-playing Spanish sides of the past who would have gone to Prague, Belgrade or Bratislava and lost.

Clemente chests down the cannonballs fired by the press. Most importantly, the players are on his side and there is an ominous determination to perform well in France, inspired by skipper Andoni Zubizarreta who, in Bratislava, equalled Pat Jennings's tally of 119 caps and is now poised to take part in his fourth World Cup.

Zubi must wish that life at Valencia was as happy. After a tumultuous 1996-97 campaign, the next managerial change arrived after only three League matches – all defeats.

Viva Espana...Raul celebrates helping to book Spain's place in next year's finals

Jorge Valdano's team played proficiently in Mallorca only to lose 2-1 to the newly-promoted side; they then had key internationals missing and Carboni sent off during the home fixture against Barcelona and lost 3-0. This enraged temperamental club president Paco Roig, who had campaigned so mightily against Barcelona's pact with the Brazilian national team, to allow Rivaldo and Sonny Anderson to play, that the Anti-Violence Committee is now investigating his threats to prevent the two players from reaching Valencia airport.

The deal was that Rivaldo and Anderson could play in the fixture, controversially switched to Monday night for TV reasons, only if they were then private-jetted to San Salvador de Bahia in time for Brazil's game against Ecuador. After Roig's threats to block the route to Manises airport, the players were driven to Alicante and flew from there.

Valencia's third match was in Santander, and life looked marginally rosier when they went a goal ahead, but Racing hit back twice in 12 minutes. Poor Valdano passed sentence on himself in the 65th minute, when he sent on striker Marcelinho Carioca to replace defender Fernando Caceres.

At this point, Valencia's line-up contained Angloma, Carioca, Djukic, Del Solar, Saib, Ortega and Vlaovic. Sadly for Valdano, five of them are non-EU foreigners and Spanish rules allow only four. He was therefore obliged to withdraw Djukic, and Valencia had to try for an equaliser with only 10 players.

They failed, and Valdano, who had made a similar error at Real Madrid three seasons earlier, was sacked 24 hours later.

He accepted it with typically good grace. Valdano excused his helpers, took the punch on the chin and went back to journalism.

Roig went to Rome for his successor explaining in typically picturesque fashion: "We gave them the Borgias [the family was said to have come from nearby Xativa] so it's time they gave us something back." They gave back Claudio Ranieri who, after Enzo Ferrari and Fabio Capello, becomes the third Italian to try his luck in Spain.

Or maybe he becomes the third and fourth. Roig wheeled him into the press room at Luis Casanova stadium, sat down beside him and announced to all and sundry "Let me introduce you to our new coach, senor Rinaldi".

I suppose Ranieri won't mind unless his pay cheques are made out to Rinaldi as well.

His first move was to impose – logically – praetorian discipline which may or may not be to the liking of a certain senor Romario who, two days later, returned to Valencia after his massive thigh-muscle injury to resume training, highly miffed by the abrupt disappearance of his friend, mentor and benefactor of non-EU footballers, Jorge Valdano. Watch this space...

In the meantime, Hristo Stoitchkov was disagreeing with Louis Van Gaal's penchant for not picking him; Bebeto was returning to goal-shy Deportivo; Santi Canizares was performing well enough in goal to put Bodo Illgner's future at Real Madrid in doubt; the Appeals Committee was reducing the record-breaking fine imposed on Zaragoza striker Pier from £26,000 to £2,361; and Roig was continuing his analysis of the Borgia family. News of more mayhem next month...

Cantatore gets the chop

JORGE VALDANO was not alone in getting the chop at lightning speed. Three games also were enough to consummate the demise of Vicente Cantatore at Valladolid, where the board acted like victims of Tommy Lee Jones in Men in Black.

They abruptly lost all short-term memory of how the alien – well, Chilean – coach had led them into the UEFA Cup with a sensational 1996-97 campaign, and a home defeat by Andoni Goikoetxea's Salamanca was enough to bring down the axe.

Public demonstrations and widespread protests within the game – even Marcos Fernandez senior, father of the current chairman, demanded Cantatore's re-instatement from the hospital in the USA where he was being treated for a serious illness – did not save him.

FRANCE

Ravanelli: Good, but not a bargain

WHATEVER may have gone on at Middlesbrough, Fabrizio Ravanelli's arrival at Olympique Marseille looks potentially a pretty good deal for the club.

There was always a strong possibility that Ravanelli would be a fish out of water on Teesside. But on the shores of the Mediterranean it will surely be a very different matter.

Boro are not wholly happy with dropping over £2million from their original fee but Marseille must think they've got, if hardly a bargain, at least a decent deal. And Ravanelli has agreed to a wage cut.

Before Marseille swooped for Ravanelli, they were turned down by Espanyol of Barcelona in a bid for French international centre-forward Nicolas Ouedec. Marseille have paid a great deal more for Ravanelli, who looks just the kind of dashing player to endear himself to those demanding fans.

Will Luis Fernandez eventually return to France and take over a revitalised Stade Francaise? He certainly has hinted as much, though things are still going well for him at Athletic Bilbao, where the Basques have taken him to their hearts. Fernandez, such a fine midfielder in his day, is an emotional fellow. Not so long ago, he said he had to get out of club management because it was driving him to a breakdown.

He insists that he never really wanted to be a manager, though his spells at Cannes and Paris Saint Germain suggested he had what it takes.

He is still angry with the way French international defender Lizarazu left Athletic Bilbao for Bayern Munich, claiming Lizarazu did not deal fairly with Athletic, who patiently looked after him last season during a long period of injury.

His ambition, he says, is not just to manage a club but to be the dominant figure. He still has warm feelings for PSG, he says, but not for some of the people involved.

Meanwhile, will Reynald Pedros, jettisoned by Parma, be able to revive his career at Napoli and regain his place in the French squad?

For this somewhat undisciplined player, so often sent off in his career with Nantes and elsewhere, Italy has so far proved a disappointment.

Injuries spoiled last season for him, and when he was told by manager Ancelotti that he would play only in every other game, he decided he would again be on his way.

Will Le Havre's Vikash Dhorasso, the little 24-year-old midfield man, end up in Spain? Atletico Madrid have been after him, but Hureau, his club president, refused to let him go.

An energetic, creative performance against PSG was watched by a Barcelona representative and could lead to an offer.

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Christophe Dugarry

Frenchman desperately seeking a match

Club Barcelona
Country France
Born March 17, 1972, in Bordeaux
Previous clubs Bordeaux, Milan (Ita)
International debut May 1994, v Australia
International caps 17 (1 goal)
Honours French Second Division title 1992

HELP. DISPIRITED French striker Christophe Dugarry is in real danger of seeing his World Cup dream go up in smoke if he continues to be surplus to requirements at Barcelona.

Since making a £3million move from Milan to Barca in the summer, poor Dugarry has found himself largely confined to a deluxe substitute role and is painfully aware of French national manager Aime Jacquet's oft-repeated warning that he will not pick anyone for France 98 who is not playing regularly at club level.

It is a nightmarish situation for Dugarry, a rather sensitive soul who can be prone to self-doubt. The Brazilian trio of Sonny Anderson, Rivaldo and Giovanni are all ahead of him in the queue for berths in the Catalan club's attack and if such white-hot competition for places was not bad enough for the Frenchman, open warfare appears to have broken out between Dugarry and new Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal.

As brutally forthright as ever, ex-Ajax boss Van Gaal has made it plain he regards Dugarry merely as a back-up and the pair have clashed on several occasions, notably after Barca struggled to see off Skonto Riga of Latvia in the second leg of the Champions League qualifier – a game, strangely enough, in which Dugarry appeared on the pitch for just 12 minutes as a substitute.

"What happens in the dressing-room should stay private, but it is true to say the coach and I don't agree on many things," said Dugarry. "I didn't come to Barcelona to be a tourist or sit on the bench. I came here to play football to the best of my ability.

"I know the season has only just begun, but that's not enough to reassure me. Before I signed, the Barcelona president Nunez assured me I would have a place in the starting line-up. If it wasn't the case, I would have gone to one of the other clubs who showed an interest in me – Marseille or Tottenham."

The charge of naivety is one Dugarry will find hard to defend. He should have known better than to take for granted a first team spot at Barcelona. After all, it is not as if this is the first time he has been frozen out of a top European club.

At Milan last season, he spent the bulk of his time on the sidelines – though he was also out injured for several weeks at the beginning of the campaign.

But he still plumped to join Barcelona, another huge club who have taken advantage of the Bosman ruling to stockpile all the stars they desired.

As his working relationship with Louis Van Gaal is already soured, it seems just a matter of time before a regretful Dugarry quits Barca. But where will he end up? He recently rejected a loan spell with Spanish strugglers Valencia, and back home in France, the smart francs are on a double-quick transfer to Marseille.

Christophe Dugarry has much skill, mobility and aerial power to offer the French attack. But first he must find a club which genuinely wants to play him. Snatches of action are no use to him as France 98 rapidly approaches.

Nick Bidwell

GERMANY

Otto on top again

THE BATTLE for honours in the Bundesliga is developing into a duel between title-holders Bayern Munich and the surprisingly strong and newly promoted Kaiserslautern. By the third week in September the Lauterer were the only unbeaten team. Bayern – with an imposing average gate of 61,000 – were in hot pursuit.

Kaiserslautern's climb to dizzy heights comes unexpectedly, even to team manager Otto Rehhagel, who took over last year following the side's relegation and guided the Red Devils back to the top flight at the first attempt.

For this season he signed Czech international goalkeeper Petr Kouba from Deportivo, and Bulgarian midfielder Marian Hristov from Levski Sofia.

Other stars are the 64-cap Czech sweeper Miroslav Kadlec, Danish international defender Michael Schjonberg-Christensen, midfielders Ciriaco Sforza (Swiss), Ratinho (Brazilian) and Martin Wagner (German), and Czech international Pavel Kuka and former GDR striker Olaf Marschall up front. Marschall is currently top scorer in the Bundesliga.

Yet Rehhagel does not want to hear suggestions that Kaiserslautern could win the championship for the fourth time. "Not this season," he insists, "even though my players are fired up and their commitment is quite admirable."

Commenting on the fact that Bayern sacked Rehhagel 18 months ago, club president Franz Beckenbauer says: "Rehhagel is the most successful manager in German football, but there were problems between him and the players which couldn't be overlooked.

"Kaiserslautern have the potential to finish in the top third of the Bundesliga, but I doubt if they can win the championship. Remember that last season they were playing Second Division football."

Kaiserslautern were relegated not least because of squabbles among team-mates. "This will not happen again as long as I am team manager," vows Rehhagel.

Bayern are used to personality clashes, having experienced the feuds between Jurgen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthaus. Beckenbauer claims: "Everything is quiet now Klinsmann has gone. It didn't matter who left, the main thing is that one of them has departed."

When asked whether it was necessary to dethrone Matthaus as captain, the president said: "It is not important. The main thing is that Lothar is still with us. Pele was the greatest footballer of all time, but he was never captain."

For most experts, Bayern remain favourites, partly on account of their financial potential and ability to lure top players to Munich. But being involved in the Champions League can tax their resources if, as expected, they progress into the later rounds.

The three German teams in the Champions League made a great start,

Kaiserslautern chief...Otto Rehhagel

all winning their first matches against admittedly modest opposition from Turkey and Belgium. European champions Dortmund began with a 1-0 away win over Galatasaray, despite missing Matthias Sammer, Andy Moller and Stefan Reuter through injury, Lars Ricken and Paulo Sousa through suspension.

However, they did welcome back international midfielder Steffen Freund after six weeks on the injured list.

Jurgen Klinsmann has reached another milestone. After an incredible 854 minutes without an international goal – by far the longest period for any Germany striker in modern history – he hit two goals on his 100th international appearance. Only Matthaus (122) and Beckenbauer (103) have played for Germany more often.

Klinsmann's goals came in the 4-0 win over Armenia, which put the Germans top of their World Cup qualifying group. The result took the pressure off team boss Berti Vogts, following the awful performance in the 1-1 draw against Portugal. Vogts surprised many with the recall of 31-year-old Olaf Thon (Schalke) after more than four years to play sweeper. The selection of two newcomers, Sven Kmetsch (Hamburg) in midfield and striker Lars Ricken (Borussia Dortmund), also paid off. With Thon, Klinsmann and Dariusz Wosz, they were the best Germans on view.

Ghanaian Tony Yeboah's return to the Bundesliga with Hamburg was not as straightforward as expected. The move of the former Leeds striker was blocked by German tax authorities, because he apparently owed some £350,000 in taxes from his time at Eintracht Frankfurt.

The German DFB (FA) claims to be one of the few in Europe to pay clubs who release their players for internationals; £1,300 for a friendly, £2,000 for a competitive match. Now Bayern's vice-president, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, is demanding a cool £20,000!

Arthur Rotmil

Pro-file Jorg Heinrich

Dortmunder on a fast track to stardom

Club Borussia Dortmund
Country Germany
Born December 6, 1969, in Rathenow
Previous clubs Motor Rathenow, Vorwarts Frankfurt/Oder, Chemie Velten, Kickers Emden, Freiburg
International debut June 1995, v Switzerland
International caps 6 (0 goals)
Honours Champions League 1997; German League 1996

BORUSSIA DORTMUND and Germany midfielder Jorg Heinrich is a player in a hurry.

This trained salesman, who learnt his football in the former East Germany, has needed to be. Just three years ago, Heinrich was turning out for anonymous northern regional league outfit Kickers Emden, leading an obscure sporting existence a million miles away from the glamour and big bucks of the Bundesliga.

Then came the moment which changed his life. In the spring of 1994, reports of his midfield prowess landed on the desk of Volker Finke, coach of Bundesliga side Freiburg, and after impressing his prospective employers during a number of scouting missions, Jorg was offered the chance to make the huge leap from part-time to the professional ranks.

Pitched into the Bundesliga school of hard knocks at the relatively late age of 24, Heinrich faced the far from straightforward task of making the grade in the top flight. But he could not have chosen a better place to launch his career than Freiburg, the Black Forest club renowned for their adventurous play and for the camaraderie generated among their mix of untried youngsters and resurrected old-hands.

Heinrich immediately found himself at his ease and in the first team, catching the eye throughout the 1994-95 season with his boundless activity on the left of midfield and flair for popping up with vital goals – seven strikes in 32 League games was a more than decent return for a rookie.

Unfashionable Freiburg eventually finished that campaign an amazing third in the table and Heinrich deservedly received the plaudits as one of the prime instigators of the Black Forest fairy tale. No wonder so many neutrals declared him the discovery of the year and national team manager Berti Vogts offered him his first international cap in a friendly against Switzerland in June 1995.

It was no surprise, given Freiburg's puny monetary clout, that their newly-discovered jewel would not complete another full season for them. Early in 1996, he moved to Borussia Dortmund in a £1.2million deal and he has been revelling in glory ever since, picking up a 1995-96 Bundesliga title with the Ruhr giants, as well as the supreme prize of the Champions League last season.

"Jorg was a real pleasure to work with," says his former Freiburg mentor Volker Finke. "It's just a pity we did not have the resources to hold on to him any longer.

"As everybody knows, his workrate is incredible. But there is so much more to his play. He is an excellent crosser of the ball, shoots powerfully and accurately and can head the ball pretty well too. For me, he is not far short of the ideal wide midfield man.

"His career is developing very nicely. He should be a key player for the national team for quite a few years to come. To my mind, he has blossomed into a much more self-assured player since going to Dortmund. He is no longer the shy bloke who arrived at Freiburg a few years back."

Nick Bidwell

EURO SQUADS

WORLD SOCCER's Who's Who of Europe – official squads from the Continent's leading leagues. Compiled by Gavin Hamilton

ENGLAND

ARSENAL

Goalkeepers
26 Vince BARTRAM 07.08.68
24 John LUKIC 11.12.60
13 Alexander MANNINGER (Aut) 04.06.77
1 David SEAMAN 19.09.63
Defenders
6 Tony ADAMS 10.10.66
5 Steve BOULD 16.11.62
2 Lee DIXON 17.03.64
19 Remi GARDE (Fra) 03.04.66
18 Gilles GRIMANDI (Fra) 11.11.70
14 Martin KEOWN 24.07.66
25 Scott MARSHALL (Sco) 01.05.73
30 Gavin McGOWAN 16.01.76
17 Emmanuel PETIT (Fra) 22.09.70
20 Matthew UPSON 18.04.79
3 Nigel WINTERBURN 11.12.63
Midfielders
33 Michael BLACK 06.10.76
34 Jason CROWE 30.09.78
29 Glenn HELDER (Hol) 28.10.68
28 Stephen HUGHES 18.09.76
23 Alberto MENDEZ (Spa) 24.11.75
15 Ray PARLOUR 07.03.73
7 David PLATT 10.06.66
22 Ian SELLEY 14.06.74
4 Patrick VIEIRA (Fra) 26.06.76
Forwards
9 Nicolas ANELKA (Fra) 14.03.79
10 Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol) 18.05.69
21 Luis BOA MORTE (Por) 04.08.77
31 Chris KIWOMYA 02.12.69
11 Marc OVERMARS (Hol) 29.03.73
32 Isaiah RANKIN 22.05.78
27 Paul SHAW 04.09.73
12 Christopher WREH (Lib) 14.05.75
8 Ian WRIGHT 03.11.63
Manager Arsene WENGER

ASTON VILLA

Goalkeepers
1 Mark BOSNICH (Aus) 13.01.72
13 Michael OAKES 30.10.73
30 Adam RACHEL 10.12.76
Defenders
2 Gary CHARLES 13.04.70
5 Ugo EHIOGU 03.11.72
16 Simon GRAYSON 16.12.69
19 David HUGHES (Wal) 01.02.78
24 Scott MURRAY (Sco) 26.05.74
15 Fernando NELSON (Por) 05.11.71
20 Riccardo SCIMECA 13.06.75
4 Gareth SOUTHGATE 03.09.70
3 Steve STAUNTON (Ire) 19.01.69
14 Alan WRIGHT 28.09.71
Midfielders
18 Sasa CURCIC (Yug) 14.02.72
8 Mark DRAPER 11.11.70
7 Ian TAYLOR 04.06.68
Forwards
11 Stan COLLYMORE 22.01.71
23 Neil DAVIS 15.08.73
17 Lee HENDRIE 18.05.77
12 Julian JOACHIM 20.09.74
9 Savo MILOSEVIC (Yug) 02.09.73
10 Dwight YORKE (T&T) 03.11.71
Manager Brian LITTLE

BARNSLEY

Goalkeepers
26 Tony BULLOCK 18.02.72
13 Lars LEESE (Ger) 18.08.69
1 David WATSON 10.11.73
Defenders
3 Matt APPLEBY 16.04.72
16 Steve DAVIS 26.07.65
6 Arjan DE ZEEUW (Hol) 16.04.70
2 Nicky EADEN 12.12.72
18 Scott JONES 01.05.75
23 Ales KRIZAN (Slvn) 25.05.71
5 Adrian MOSES 04.05.75
4 Darren SHERIDAN (Ire) 08.12.67
19 Peter SHIRTLIFF 06.04.61
11 Neil THOMPSON 02.10.63
Midfielders
15 Jovo BOSANCIC (Cro) 07.08.70
14 Martin BULLOCK 05.03.75
10 Clint MARCELLE (T&T) 09.11.68
8 Neil REDFEARN 20.06.65
21 Eric TINKLER (SA) 20.07.70
Forwards
8 John HENDRIE (Sco) 24.10.63
17 Laurens Ten HEUVEL (Hol) 06.06.76
22 Georgi HRISTOV (Mac) 30.01.76
12 Andy LIDDELL 28.06.73
20 Dave REGIS 03.03.64
25 Ashley WARD 24.11.70
Manager Danny WILSON

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Goalkeepers
33 Alan FETTIS (NI) 01.02.71
13 John FILAN (Aus) 08.02.70
1 Tim FLOWERS 03.02.67
Defenders
26 Marlon BROOMES 28.11.77
19 Chris COLEMAN (Wal) 10.06.70
20 Gary CROFT 17.02.74
24 Stephane HENCHOZ (Swi) 07.09.74
5 Colin HENDRY (Sco) 07.12.65
3 Jeff KENNA (Ire) 28.08.70
6 Tore PEDERSEN (Nor) 29.6.69
22 Patrick VALERY (Fra) 03.07.69
Midfielders
14 Anders ANDERSSON (Swe) 15.03.74
12 Lars BOHINEN (Nor) 08.08.69
21 Georgios DONIS (Gre) 20.10.69
15 Garry FLITCROFT 06.11.72
17 Billy McKINLAY (Sco) 22.04.69
7 Stuart RIPLEY 20.11.67
4 Tim SHERWOOD 02.02.69
11 Jason WILCOX 15.07.71
Forwards
10 Martin DAHLIN (Swe) 16.04.68
25 Damien DUFF (Ire) 02.03.79
8 Kevin GALLACHER (Sco) 23.11.66
16 Per PEDERSEN (Den) 30.03.69
9 Chris SUTTON 10.03.73
Manager Roy HODGSON

BOLTON WANDERERS

Goalkeepers
1 Keith BRANAGAN (Ire) 10.07.66
16 Gavin WARD 30.06.70
Defenders
28 Hasney ALJOFREE 11.07.78
12 Gudni BERGSSON (Ice) 21.07.65
2 Neil COX 08.10.71
3 Robbie ELLIOTT 25.12.73
6 Chris FAIRCLOUGH 12.04.64
21 Mark FISH (SA) 14.03.74
24 Steve McANESPIE (Sco) 01.02.72
18 Jimmy PHILLIPS 08.02.66
19 Bryan SMALL 15.11.71
29 Nicky SPOONER 05.06.71
26 Greg STRONG 05.09.75
5 Gerry TAGGART (NI) 18.10.70
17 Andy TODD 21.09.74
22 Mike WHITLOW 13.01.68
Midfielders
4 Per FRANDSEN (Den) 06.02.70
14 Michael JOHANSEN (Den) 22.07.72
7 Jamie POLLOCK 16.02.74
8 Scott SELLARS 27.11.65
15 John SHERIDAN (Ire) 01.10.64
11 Alan THOMPSON 22.12.73
27 Stuart WHITEHEAD 17.07.76
Forwards
13 Peter BEARDSLEY 18.01.61
9 Nathan BLAKE (Wal) 27.01.72
30 Arnar GUNNLAUGSSON (Ice) 06.03.73
10 John McGINLAY (Sco) 08.04.64
25 Scott TAYLOR 05.05.76
Manager Colin TODD

CHELSEA

Goalkeepers
1 Ed DE GOEY (Hol) 20.12.66
30 Frode GRODAS (Nor) 24.10.69
13 Kevin HITCHCOCK 05.10.62
23 Dmitri KHARINE (Rus) 16.08.68
Defenders
3 Celestine BABAYARO (Nig) 29.08.78
6 Steve CLARKE (Sco) 29.08.63
12 Michael DUBERRY 14.10.75
4 Ruud GULLIT (Hol) 01.09.62
7 Bernard LAMBOURDE (Fra) 11.05.71
5 Frank LEBOEUF (Fra) 22.01.68
14 Graeme LE SAUX 17.10.68
18 Andy MYERS 03.11.73
2 Dan PETRESCU (Rom) 22.12.67
20 Frank SINCLAIR 03.12.71
Midfielders
16 Roberto DI MATTEO (Ita) 29.05.70
17 Danny GRANVILLE 19.01.75
21 Paul HUGHES 19.04.76
15 David LEE 26.11.69
28 Jody MORRIS 22.12.78
24 Eddie NEWTON 13.12.71
22 Mark NICHOLLS 30.05.77
8 Gustavo POYET (Uru) 15.11.67
11 Dennis WISE 16.12.66
Forwards
19 Tore Andre FLO (Nor) 15.06.73
10 Mark HUGHES (Wal) 01.11.63
9 Gianluca VIALLI (Ita) 09.07.64
25 Gianfranco ZOLA (Ita) 05.07.66
Manager Ruud GULLIT

COVENTRY CITY

Goalkeepers
13 Magnus HEDMAN (Swe) 19.03.73
1 Steve OGRIZOVIC 12.09.57
Defenders
24 Brian Borrows 20.12.60
6 Gary BREEN (Ire) 12.12.73
3 David BURROWS 25.10.68
5 Liam DAISH (Ire) 23.09.68
18 Marcus HALL 24.03.76
23 Roland NILSSON (Swe) 27.11.63
2 Richard SHAW 11.09.68
4 Paul WILLIAMS 26.03.71
Midfielders
17 Willie BOLAND (Ire) 06.08.75
19 Martin JOHANSEN (Swe) 22.07.72
10 Gary McALLISTER (Sco) 25.12.64
20 Michael O'NEILL (NI) 05.07.69
11 John SALAKO 11.02.69
14 Trond Egil SOLTVEDT (Nor) 15.02.67
28 Gordon STRACHAN (Sco) 09.02.57
12 Paul TELFER (Sco) 21.10.71
Forwards
9 Dion DUBLIN 22.04.69
21 Andrew DUCROS 16.09.77
22 Simon HAWORTH (Wal) 30.03.77
7 Darren HUCKERBY 23.04.76
15 Kyle LIGHTBOURNE (Ber) 29.09.68
8 Noel WHELAN 30.12.74
Manager Gordon STRACHAN

Slaven Bilic, Everton

CRYSTAL PALACE

Goalkeepers
1 Kevin MILLER 15.03.69
13 Carlo NASH 13.09.73
Defenders
2 Marc EDWORTHY 24.12.72
26 Jamie FULLARTON (Sco) 20.07.74
3 Dean GORDON 10.02.73
22 Hernan HREIDARSSON 11.07.74
6 Andy LINIGHAN 18.06.62
17 Kevin MUSCAT (Aus) 07.08.73
16 Robert QUINN 08.11.76
5 David TUTTLE 06.02.72
Midfielders
24 Neil EMBLEN 19.06.71
7 Attilio LOMBARDO (Ita) 06.01.66
19 Darren PITCHER 12.10.69
4 Andy ROBERTS 20.03.74
14 Simon RODGER 03.10.71
12 Carl VEART (Aus) 21.05.70
27 Itzhak ZOHAR (Isr) 30.10.70
Forwards
10 Bruce DYER 13.04.75
11 Dougie FREEDMAN (Sco) 21.01.74
20 Leon McKENZIE 17.05.78
18 George NDAH 23.12.74
9 Neil SHIPPERLEY 30.10.74
8 Paul WARHURST 26.09.69
Manager Steve COPPELL

DERBY COUNTY

Goalkeepers
1 Russell HOULT 22.11.72
21 Mart POOM (Est) 03.02.72
Defenders
17 Matt CARBON 08.06.75
18 Lee CARSLEY 28.02.74
16 Jacob LAURSEN (Den) 06.10.71
3 Chris POWELL 08.09.69
2 Gary ROWETT 06.03.74
6 Igor STIMAC (Cro) 06.09.67
28 Wayne SUTTON 01.10.75
5 Dean YATES 26.10.67
Midfielders
10 Aljosa ASANOVIC (Cro) 14.12.65
22 Christian DAILLY (Sco) 23.10.73
20 Stefano ERANIO (Ita) 29.12.66
26 Jonathan HUNT 02.11.71
25 Robert KOZLUK 05.08.77
4 Darryl POWELL 15.01.71
14 Paul SIMPSON 26.07.66
23 Mauricio SOLIS (CR) 13.12.72
15 Paul TROLLOPE 03.06.72
7 Robin VAN DER LAAN (Hol) 05.09.68
Forwards
27 Francisco BAIANO (Ita) 24.02.68
24 Deon BURTON (Jam) 25.10.76
8 Dean STURRIDGE 27.07.73
9 Paulo WANCHOPE (CR) 31.07.76
11 Ron WILLEMS (Hol) 20.09.66
29 Nick WRIGHT 15.10.75
Manager Jim SMITH

EVERTON

Goalkeepers
13 Paul GERRARD 22.01.73
1 Neville SOUTHALL (Wal) 16.09.58
Defenders
25 Michael BALL 02.10.79
2 Earl BARRETT 28.04.67
28 Slaven BILIC (Cro) 11.09.68
3 Andy HINCHCLIFFE 05.02.69
6 Terry PHELAN (Ire) 16.03.67
12 Craig SHORT 25.06.68
5 Dave WATSON 20.11.61
Midfielders
17 Gareth FARRELLY (Ire) 28.08.75
14 Tony GRANT 14.11.74
22 Gavin McCANN 10.01.78
24 Jon O'CONNOR 29.10.76
18 Joe PARKINSON 11.06.71
10 Gary SPEED (Wal) 08.09.69
7 Graham STUART 24.10.70
20 Tony THOMAS 12.07.71
15 Claus THOMSEN (Den) 31.05.70
4 Danny WILLIAMSON 05.12.73
Forwards
8 Nick BARMBY 11.02.74
16 Michael BRANCH 18.10.78
9 Duncan FERGUSON (Sco) 27.12.71
19 John OSTER (Wal) 08.12.78
Manager Howard KENDALL

LEEDS UTD

Goalkeepers
15 Mark BEENEY 30.12.67
1 Nigel MARTYN 11.08.66
Defenders
4 Alf Inge HAALAND (Nor) 23.11.72
18 Gunnar HALLE (Nor) 11.08.65
28 Mark JACKSON 30.09.77
16 Richard JOBSON 09.05.63
2 Gary KELLY (Ire) 09.07.74
30 Robert MOLENAAR (Hol) 27.02.69
5 Lucas RADEBE (SA) 12.04.69
3 David ROBERTSON (Sco) 17.10.68
6 David WETHERALL 14.03.71
Midfielders
24 Jason BLUNT 16.08.77
11 Lee BOWYER 03.01.77
14 Andy GRAY 15.11.77
12 David HOPKIN (Sco) 21.08.70
19 Harry KEWELL (Aus) 22.09.78
25 Pierre LAURENT (Fra) 13.12.70
10 Bruno RIBEIRO (Por) 22.10.75
7 Lee SHARPE 27.05.71
Forwards
36 Tomas BROLIN (Swe) 29.11.69
9 Jimmy HASSELBAINK (Hol) 27.03.72
17 Derek LILLEY (Sco) 27.03.77
8 Rod WALLACE 02.10.69
21 Tony YEBOAH (Gha) 06.06.66
Manager George GRAHAM

LEICESTER CITY

Goalkeepers
30 Ian ANDREWS 01.12.64
22 Pegguy ARPHEXAD (Fra) 18.05.74
1 Kasey KELLER (USA) 27.01.69
Defenders
18 Matt ELLIOTT 01.11.68
15 Pontus KAAMARK (Swe) 05.04.69
17 Spencer PRIOR 22.04.71
19 Robert ULLATHORNE 11.10.71
5 Steve WALSH 03.11.64
4 Julian WATTS 17.03.71
Midfielders
24 Steve GUPPY 29.03.69
6 Muzzy IZZET 31.10.74
7 Neil LENNON (NI) 25.06.71
23 Sam McMAHON 10.02.76
10 Garry PARKER 07.09.65
14 Rob SAVAGE (Wal) 18.10.74
8 Scott TAYLOR 28.11.70
Forwards
9 Steve CLARIDGE 10.04 66
27 Tony COTTEE 11.07.65
21 Graham FENTON 22.05.74
11 Emile HESKEY 11.01.78
20 Ian MARSHALL 20.03.66
12 Mark ROBINS 22.12.69
Manager Martin O'NEILL

LIVERPOOL

Goalkeepers
1 David JAMES 01.08.70
26 Jorgen NIELSEN (Den) 06.05.71
22 Tony WARNER 11.05.74
Defenders
6 Phil BABB (Ire) 30.11.70
20 Stig Inge BJORNEBYE (Nor) 11.12.69
12 Steve HARKNESS 27.08.71
2 Rob JONES 05.11.71
3 Bjorn Tore KVARME (Nor) 17.07.72
21 Dominic MATTEO 24.04.74
14 Neil RUDDOCK 09.05.68
5 Mark WRIGHT 01.08.63
Midfielders
23 Jamie CARRAGHER 28.01.78
Jamie CASSIDY 21.11.77
17 Paul INCE 21.10.67
19 Mark KENNEDY (Ire) 15.05.76
8 Oyvind LEONHARDSEN (Nor) 17.08.70
4 Jason McATEER (Ire) 18.06.71
7 Steve McMANAMAN 11.02.72
24 Danny MURPHY 18.03.77
11 Jamie REDKNAPP 25.06.73
16 Michael THOMAS 24.08.67
25 David THOMPSON 12.09.77
Forwards
15 Patrik BERGER (Cze) 10.11.73
9 Robbie FOWLER 09.04.75
18 Michael OWEN 14.12.79
13 Karlheinz RIEDLE (Ger)
Manager Roy EVANS

MANCHESTER UTD

Goalkeepers
25 Kevin PILKINGTON 08.03.74
1 Peter SCHMEICHEL (Den) 18.11.63
17 Raimond VAN DER GOUW (Hol) 24.03.63
Defenders
21 Henning BERG (Nor) 01.09.68
26 Chris CASPER 28.4.75
32 Michael CLEGG 3.07.77
3 Denis IRWIN (Ire) 31.10.65
5 Ronny JOHNSEN (Nor) 10.06.69
4 David MAY 24.06.70
2 Gary NEVILLE 18.02.75
12 Philip NEVILLE 21.01.77
24 John O'KANE 15.11.74
6 Gary PALLISTER 30.06.65
Midfielders
29 Michael APPLETON 04.12.75
7 David BECKHAM 02.05.75
8 Nicky BUTT 21.05.75
11 Ryan GIGGS (Wal) 29.11.73
16 Roy KEANE (Ire) 10.08.71
13 Brian McCLAIR (Sco) 08.12.63
15 Karel POBORSKY (Cze) 30.03.72
23 Ben THORNLEY 21.04.75
Forwards
9 Andy COLE 15.10.71
27 Terry COOKE 05.08.76
14 Jordi CRUYFF (Hol) 09.02.74
Erik NEVLAND (Nor) 10.11.77
18 Paul SCHOLES 16.11.74
10 Teddy SHERINGHAM 02.04.66
20 Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor) 26.02.73
Manager Alex FERGUSON

Faustino Asprilla, Newcastle

NEWCASTLE UTD

Goalkeepers
1 Shay GIVEN (Ire) 20.04.76
29 Stephen HARPER 14.03.75
15 Shaka HISLOP (T&T) 22.02.69
21 Pavel SRNICEK (Cze) 10.03.68
Defenders
27 Philippe ALBERT (Bel) 10.08.67
2 Warren BARTON 19.03.69
3 John BERESFORD 04.09.66
31 Stuart ELLIOTT 27.08.77
6 Steve HOWEY 26.10.71
28 Aaron HUGHES (NI) 08.11.79
5 Darren PEACOCK 03.02.68
12 Stuart PEARCE 24.04.62
23 Alessandro PISTONE (Ita) 27.07.75
19 Steve WATSON 01.04.74
Midfielders
10 John BARNES 07.11.63
4 David BATTY 02.12.68
17 Jimmy CRAWFORD (Ire) 01.05.73
18 Keith GILLESPIE (NI) 18.02.75
22 Des HAMILTON 15.08.76
30 Paddy KELLY (Sco) 26.04.78
14 Temur KETSBAIA (Geo) 18.03.68
7 Robert LEE 01.02.66
24 Brian PINAS (Hol) 29.12.78
Forwards
11 Faustino ASPRILLA (Col) 10.11.69
20 Bjarni GUDJONSSON (Ice) 26.02.79
8 Ian RUSH (Wal) 20.10.61
9 Alan SHEARER 13.08.70
16 Jon Dahl TOMASSON (Den) 29.08.76
Manager Kenny DALGLISH

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Goalkeepers
13 Matt CLARKE 03.11.73
1 Kevin PRESSMAN 06.11.67
Defenders
2 Peter ATHERTON 06.04.70
15 Patrick BLONDEAU (Fra) 27.01.68
17 Lee BRISCOE 30.09.75
5 Jon NEWSOME 06.09.70
14 Steve NICOL (Sco) 11.12.61
3 Ian NOLAN (NI) 09.07.70
18 Dejan STEFANOVIC (Yug) 28.10.74
6 Des WALKER 26.11.65
Midfielders
20 Wayne COLLINS 04.03.69
12 Graham HYDE 10.11.70
24 Jim MAGILTON (NI) 06.05.69
19 Scott OAKES 05.08.72
4 Mark PEMBRIDGE (Wal) 29.11.70
7 Guy WHITTINGHAM 10.11.64
Forwards
10 Andy BOOTH 17.03.73
8 Benito CARBONE (Ita) 14.08.71
11 Paolo DI CANIO (Ita) 09.07.67
22 O'Neill DONALDSON 24.11.69
9 David HIRST 07.12.67
16 Richie HUMPHREYS 30.11.77
Manager David PLEAT

SOUTHAMPTON

Goalkeepers
20 Dave BEASANT 20.03.59
1 Paul JONES 18.04.67
13 Maik TAYLOR 04.09.71
Defenders
15 Francis BENALI 30.12.68
17 Simon CHARLTON 25.10.71
2 Jason DODD 02.11.70
12 Richard DRYDEN 14.06.69
6 Claus LUNDEKVAM (Nor) 22.02.73
5 Ken MONKOU (Hol) 29.11.64
19 Alan NEILSON (Wal) 26.09.72
3 Lee TODD 07.03.72
Midfielders
26 David HUGHES 30.12.72
14 Neil MADDISON 02.10.69
8 Matt OAKLEY 17.08.77
Carlton PALMER 05.12.65
18 Kevin RICHARDSON 04.12.62
11 Robbie SLATER (Aus) 26.11.64
Forwards
16 Kevin DAVIES 26.3.77
9 Micky EVANS 01.01.73
7 Matthew LE TISSIER 14.10.68
10 Egil OSTENSTAD (Nor) 02.01.72
Manager Dave JONES

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Goalkeepers
13 Espen BAARDSEN (Nor) 07.12.77
31 Simon BROWN 03.12.76
1 Ian WALKER 31.10.71
Defenders
2 Dean AUSTIN 26.04.70
5 Colin CALDERWOOD (Sco) 20.01.65
23 Sol CAMPBELL 18.09.74
12 Steve CARR (Ire) 29.08.76
3 Justin EDINBURGH 18.12.69
6 Gary MABBUTT 23.08.61
19 Stuart NETHERCOTT 21.03.73
17 John SCALES 04.07.66
15 Ramon VEGA (Swi) 14.06.71
16 Clive WILSON 13.11.61
Midfielders
28 Jamie CLAPHAM 07.12.75
7 Ruel FOX 14.01.68
14 David GINOLA (Fra) 25.01.67
Danny HILL 01.10.74
4 David HOWELLS 15.12.67
8 Allan NIELSEN (Den) 13.03.71
22 Andy SINTON 19.03.66
Forwards
21 Rory ALLEN 17.10.77
9 Darren ANDERTON 03.03.72
11 Chris ARMSTRONG 19.06.71
20 Jose DOMINGUEZ 16.02.74
24 Neale FENN (Ire) 18.01.77
9 Les FERDINAND 18.12.66
18 Steffen IVERSEN (Nor) 10.11.76
26 Paul McVEIGH 06.12.77
30 Paul MAHORN 13.08.73
Manager Gerry FRANCIS

WEST HAM UTD

Goalkeepers
31 Neil FINN 29.12.78
22 Craig FORREST (Can) 20.09.67
1 Ludek MIKLOSKO (Cze) 09.12.61
21 Les SEALEY 29.09.57
Defenders
2 Tim BREACKER 02.07.65
3 Julian DICKS 08.08.68
15 Rio FERDINAND 07.11.78
5 Richard HALL 14.03.72
8 Ian PEARCE 07.05.74
4 Steve POTTS 07.05.67
13 David TERRIER (Fra) 04.08.73
6 David UNSWORTH 16.10.73
Midfielders
29 Eyal BERKOVIC (Isr) 02.04.72
7 Ian BISHOP 29.05.65
20 Andy IMPEY 13.09.71
18 Frank LAMPARD 21.06.78
17 Stan LAZARIDIS (Aus) 16.08.72
11 Steve LOMAS (NI) 18.01.74
23 Scott MEAN 13.12.73
16 John MONCUR 22.09.66
27 Emmanuel OMOYINMI (Nig) 28.12.77
12 Keith ROWLAND (NI) 01.09.71
Forwards
33 Lee BOYLAN 02.09.78
14 Iain DOWIE (NI) 09.01.65
10 John HARTSON (Wal) 05.04.75
25 Lee HODGES 02.03.78
9 Paul KITSON 09.01.71
Manager Harry REDKNAPP

WIMBLEDON

Goalkeepers
13 Paul HEALD 20.09.68
1 Neil SULLIVAN (Sco) 24.02.70
Defenders
5 Dean BLACKWELL 05.12.69
2 Kenny CUNNINGHAM (Ire) 28.06.71
21 Duncan JUPP 25.01.75
3 Alan KIMBLE 06.08.66
17 Brian McALLISTER (Sco) 30.11.70
12 Chris PERRY 26.04.73
15 Alan REEVES 19.11.67
6 Ben THATCHER 30.11.75
Midfielders
18 Neil ARDLEY 01.09.72
19 Stewart CASTLEDINE 22.01.73
22 Andy CLARKE 22.07.67
8 Robbie EARLE (Jam) 27.01.65
24 Peter FEAR 10.09.73
7 Ceri HUGHES (Wal) 26.02.71
Michael HUGHES (NI) 02.08.71
4 Vinnie JONES (Wal) 05.01.65
Forwards
26 Carl CORT 01.11.77
9 Efan EKOKU (Nig) 08.06.67
23 Jason EUELL 06.02.77
11 Marcus GAYLE 27.09.70
14 Jon GOODMAN 02.06.71
20 Mick HARFORD 12.02.59
10 Dean HOLDSWORTH 08.11.68
Manager Joe KINNEAR

FRANCE

AUXERRE

Goalkeepers
1 Lionel CHARBONNIER 25.10.66
16 Fabien COOL 28.09.74
Defenders
12 Eric ASSATI 20.09.74
20 Laurent CIECHELSKI 04.06.71
5 Frederic DANJOU 28.09.74
2 Alain GOMA 05.10.72
13 Jean-Sebastien JAURES 30.09.77
28 Frederic JAY 20.09.76
3 Franck RABARIVONY 15.11.70
21 Johan RADET 24.11.76
4 Franck SILVESTRE 05.04.67
Midfielders
25 Kuami AGBOH 28.12.77
6 Christian HENNA 10.03.72
14 Cyril JEUNECHAMP 18.12.75
8 Yann LACHUER 10.03.72
7 Sabri LAMOUCHI 09.11.71
22 Tarik SEKTIOUI (Mor) 13.06.77
10 Antoine SIBIERSKI 05.08.74
Forwards

Steve Marlet, Auxerre

23 Lilian COMPAN 30.04.77
18 Thomas DENIAUD 31.08.71
11 Bernard DIOMEDE 23.01.74
9 Stephane GUIVARC'H 06.09.70
15 Fabrice LEPAUL 17.11.76
17 Steve MARLET 10.01.74
Coach Guy Roux

BASTIA

Goalkeepers
Eric DURAND 13.08.67
Fabien PIVETEAU 28.10.63
Defenders
Chrisophe DEGUERVILLE 27.06.70
Pascal GARRIDO (Spa) 28.09.74
Patrick MOREAU 03.11.73
Sebastien PEREZ 24.11.73
Morlaye SOUMAH (Gui) 04.11.71
Midfielders
Herve ANZIANI 29.06.76
Mamadou FAYE (Sen) 31.12.67
Franck JURIETTI 30.03.75
Frederic MENDY 29.11.73
Cyril ROOL 15.04.75
Piotr SWIERCZEWSKI (Pol) 08.04.72
Forwards
Pierre-Yves ANDRE 14.05.74
Prince DAYE (Lib) 11.04.78
Wilfried GOHEL 12.10.68
Menad JESTROVIC (Yug) 09.05.76
Ermin SILJAK (Slvn) 11.05.73
Soumah OUSMANE (Gui) 06.10.76
Coach Frederic ANTONETTI

BORDEAUX

Goalkeepers
30 Nicolas ARDOUIN 07.02.78
1 Stanley MENZO (Hol) 15.01.63
16 Ulrich RAME 19.09.72
Defenders
17 Kodjo AFANOU 21.11.77
14 Laurent CROCI 08.12.64
5 Romain FERRIER 24.02.76
12 Louis GOMIS 06.11.71
3 Paulo GRALAK (Bra) 18.08.69
2 David JEMMALI 13.12.74
18 Diabatte LASSINA (Ivo) 16.09.74
4 Nisa SAVELJIC (Yug) 27.03.70
Midfielders
22 Bruno DA ROCHA 25.10.77
14 Francois GRENET 08.03.75
26 Peter LUCCIN 09.04.79
8 Johan MICOUD 24.07.73
6 Kiki MUSAMPA (Hol) 20.07.77
7 Michel PAVON 07.11.68
10 RICARDINHO (Bra) 23.05.76
21 Marc ZANOTTI 13.11.75
Forwards
19 Kaba DIAWARA 16.12.75
9 Lilian LASLANDES 04.09.71
27 Jean-Pierre PAPIN 05.11.63
11 Sylvain WILTORD 10.05.74
Coach Guy STEPHAN

CANNES

Goalkeepers
16 Sebastien CHABBERT 15.08.78
1 Gregory WIMBEE 19.08.71
Defenders
7 Laurent CHARVET 08.05.73
3 Yannick FISCHER 17.12.74
22 Fabrice GRONDIN 29.05.73
2 Gilles HAMPARTZOUMIAN 20.05.69
5 Kwami HODOUTO 31.10.74
4 Brian JENSEN (Den) 23.04.68
29 Yao SENAYA (Tog) 18.10.79
12 Jonathan ZEBINA 19.07.78
Midfielders
9 Samassi ABOU 04.04.73
13 Komlan ASSIGNON 20.01.74
14 Patrick BARUL 23.12.64
6 Jean-Michel CAPOUE 18.02.72
15 Jose BRAY 23.12.64
11 Sebastien CHABAUD 09.03.77
18 Cedric DAURY 19.10.69
20 Michael MARSIGLIA 25.12.75
21 Fabrice MULLER 10.08.77
Forwards
24 Adel BOUTOBBA 16.07.77
8 Leeroy ECHTELD (Hol) 30.09.68
11 Victor KONWLO (Lib) 01.02.75
19 Laurent LEROY 16.04.76
26 Cedric MOURET 26.08.78
Coach Addick KOOT

CHATEAUROUX

Goalkeepers
16 Frederic GUEGEN 02.12.70
1 Eric LOUSSOUARN 27.08.74
30 Ludovic ROY 17.10.77
Defenders
2 Nicolas BAUDOIN 16.02.70
22 Ludovic CLEMENT 05.12.76
14 Ferdinand COLY 10.09.73
5 Loic DRUON 23.08.71
15 Karim EL KHEBIR 04.05.74
4 Franck MOULIN 28.05.73
13 Antoine PREGET 05.10.72
3 Nicolas WEBER 28.10.70
Midfielders
20 Frederic ADAM 11.08.73
27 Philippe AVENET 16.04.67
8 Pierre CHAVRONDIER 26.08.71
6 Laurent DEBROSSE 02.10.69
10 Stephane DEDEBAND 17.10.70
17 Jean-Claude FERNANDES 08.11.72
18 Mathieu VERSCHUERE 08.02.72
Forwards
19 Nenad BJEKOVIC (Yug) 17.02.74
11 Raouf BOUZAIENE (Tun) 16.08.70
9 Damir CAKAR (Yug) 28.06.73
7 Laurent DUFRESNE 02.03.72
25 Didier MARTEL 26.10.71
21 Jason MAYELE 04.01.71
Coach Victor ZVUNKA

GUINGAMP

Goalkeepers
1 Angelo HUGHES 03.09.66
16 Ronald THOMAS 27.03.74
30 Stephane TREVISAN 01.05.73
Defenders
17 Guillaume BOUISSET 07.01.73
24 Pierre-Emmanuel BORDEAU 19.05.75
2 Jerome FOULON 06.02.71
4 Marek JOZWIAK (Pol) 21.08.67
3 Nicolas LASPALLES 27.11.71
5 Gheorghe MIHALI (Rom) 09.12.65
19 Rudy PERON 19.11.77
21 Jean-Luc VANNUCHI 13.09.70
Midfielders
8 Yannick BARET 20.10.72
7 Charles-Edouard CORIDON 09.04.73
12 Rzykard CZERWIEC (Pol) 28.02.68
14 Laurent HERVE 19.06.76
6 Claude MICHEL 24.04.71
10 Daniel MOREIRA 08.08.77
15 Lilian NALIS 29.09.71
22 Abdelhafid TASFAOUT (Alg) 11.02.69
Forwards
25 Eric ASSADOURIAN 24.06.66
20 Anthony BANCAREL 15.05.71
11 Fabrice FIORESE 26.07.75
18 David GARCION 27.09.73
9 Lionel ROUXEL 16.08.70
Coach Francis SMERECKI

LE HAVRE

Goalkeepers
1 Stephane CASSARD 11.11.72
16 Sebastien HAMEL 20.11.75
Defenders
13 Mohamed CAMARA (Gui) 25.06.75
5 Jean-Pierre DELAUNAY 17.01.66
25 Jeremy HENIN 12.11.77
22 Mathieu LOUIS-JEAN 22.02.76
19 Mamar MAMOUNI 28.02.76
20 Djoni NOVAK (Slvk) 04.09.69
14 Marinos OUZUNIDIS (Gre) 10.10.68
2 Bernard PASCUAL 10.04.67
4 Ludovic POLLET 18.06.70
3 Thierry UVENARD 29.03.64
Midfielders
8 Thierry DE NEEF 27.10.66
10 Vikash DHORASOO 10.10.73
7 Nicolas HUYSMAN 09.02.68
6 David MAZZONCINI 16.10.71
12 Yann SOLOY 15.02.70
15 Tomasz WIESZCZYCKI 21.12.71
Forwards
11 Christophe HORLAVILLE 01.03.69
9 Cyrille POUGET 06.12.72
21 Lionel PRAT 30.01.71
18 Stephane SAMSON 09.03.75
Coach Denis TROCH

LENS

Goalkeepers
16 Christophe MARICHEZ 12.12.74
1 Guillaume WARMUZ 10.08.70
Defenders
5 Philippe DURPES 06.03.74
3 Yoan LACHOR 17.01.76
4 Cyrille MAGNIER 24.08.69
22 Xavier MERIDE 09.01.75
24 Jose PIERRE-FANFAN 26.07.75
2 Eric SIKORA 04.02.68
8 Jean-Guy WALLEMME 10.08.67
Midfielders
6 Herve ARSENE 30.10.63
7 Michael DEBEVE 01.12.70
13 Frederic DEHU 24.10.72
17 Marc-Vivien FOE (Cam) 01.05.75
14 Wilson ORUMA (Nig) 30.12.76
20 Philippe VERCRUYSSE 28.01.62
10 Stephane ZIANI 09.12.72
Forwards
18 Philippe BRUNEL 28.02.73
9 Anto DROBNJAK (Yug) 21.09.68
12 Wagneau ELOI 11.09.73
19 Vladimir SMICER (Cze) 24.05.73
11 Tony VAIRELLES 10.04.73
Coach Daniel LECLERCQ

Robert Pires, Metz

LYON

Goalkeepers
1 Gregory COUPET 31.12.72
16 Jean-Claude NADON 21.11.64
Defenders
2 Ghislain ANSELMINI 06.05.70
5 Jacek BAK (Pol) 24.03.73
25 Christian BASSILA 05.10.77
12 Olivier BELLISI 25.11.75
17 Patrice CARTERON 30.07.70
23 Johan CHARPENET 03.08.76
19 Jean-Christophe DEVAUX 16.05.75
5 Florent LAVILLE 07.08.73
Midfielders
6 Laurent CASANOVA 28.09.71
15 Christophe DELMOTTE 09.06.69
22 David LINARES 05.11.77
11 Stephane ROCHE 25.09.70
18 Philippe VIOLEAU 19.08.70
Forwards
9 Cedric BARDON 15.10.76
14 Alain CAVEGLIA 28.3.68
7 Christophe COCARD 23.11.67
8 Frederic FOURET 24.10.74
10 Ludovic GIULY 10.07.76
21 Joseph JOB 01.12.77
20 Frederic KANOUTE 02.09.77
27 Claude-Arnaud RIVENET 13.12.72
Coach Bernard LACOMBE

MARSEILLE

Goalkeepers
Andreas KOPKE (Ger) 12.03.63
Francois LEMASSON 15.11.63
Laurent SPINOSI 20.12.69
Defenders
Laurent BLANC 19.11.65
Serge BLANC 22.09.72
Patrick COLLETER 06.11.65
Cyril DOMORAUD 22.07.71
William GALLAS 17.08.77
Christophe GALTIER 23.08.66
Pierre ISSA 11.09.75
Hamada JAMBAY 25.04.75
Jean-Christophe MARQUET 27.04.74
Alberto MALUSCI (Ita) 23.06.72
Midfielders
Ludovic ASUAR 27.10.76
Teddy BERTIN 06.08.69
Frederic BRANDO 22.11.73
Olivier ECHOUAFNI 13.09.72
Claude MAKELELE 18.02.73
Forwards
Miladin BECANOVIC (Yug) 18.04.73
Abanbacar CAMARA (Gui) 17.11.72
Xavier GRAVELAINE 05.10.68
Marc LIBBRA 05.08.72
Fabrizio RAVANELLI (Ita) 12.12.68
Coach Rolland COURBIS

METZ

Goalkeepers
16 Andre BIANCARELLI 11.03.70
30 Christophe EGGIMAN 23.09.76
1 Lionel LETIZI 28.05.73
Defenders
3 Philippe GAILLOT 28.02.65
5 Sylvain KASTENDEUCH 31.08.63
2 Pascal PIERRE 28.05.68
4 Rigobert SONG (Cam) 01.07.76
18 Jeff STRASSER (Lux) 05.10.74
14 Geoffray TOYES 18.05.73
Midfielders
8 Jocelyn BLANCHARD 28.05.72
25 Danny BOFFIN (Bel) 10.07.65
17 Franck HISTILLOLES 25.01.73
23 Moussa LATOUNDJI (Ben) 13.08.78
10 Frederic MEYRIEU 09.02.68
19 Stephane RODA 16.06.73
13 Stephane RONDELAERE 16.01.71
6 Cyril SERREDSZUM 02.10.71
Forwards
15 Hassan KACHLOUL 19.02.73
9 Vladan LUKIC (Yug) 16.02.70
7 Robert PIRES 29.10.73
21 Bruno RODRIGUEZ 25.11.72
24 Louis SAHA 08.08.78
11 Amara TRAORE 25.09.65
Coach Joel MULLER

MONACO

Goalkeepers
Fabien BARTHEZ 28.06.71
Stephane PORATO 19.09.73
Tony Mario SILVA 17.05.75
Defenders
Philippe CHRISTANVAL 31.08.78
Djebril DIAWARA 03.01.75
Martin DJETOU 15.12.74
Franck DUMAS 09.01.68
Bruno IRLES 16.08.75
Philippe LEONARD (Bel) 14.02.74
Lilian MARTIN 28.05.71
Christophe PIGNOL 17.10.69
Willy SAGNOL 18.03.77

Thierry Henry, Monaco

Midfielders
Ali BENARBIA 08.10.68
Stephane CARNOT 10.07.72
John COLLINS (Sco) 31.01.68
Francisco DA COSTA (Por) 01.12.74
Salif DIAO (Sen) 10.02.77
Fabien LEFEVRE 14.11.71
Sylvain LEGWINSKI 06.10.73
Forwards
Thierry HENRY 17.08.77
Victor IKPEBA NOSA (Nig) 12.06.73
Mabula LUKUNKU (Zai) 14.04.76
Japhet N'DORAM (Cha) 27.02.66
David TREZEGUET 15.10.77
Coach Jean TIGANA

MONTPELLIER

Goalkeepers
16 Philippe FLUCKLINGER 24.05.62
1 Bruno MARTINI 25.01.63
Defenders
4 Herve ALICARTE 07.10.74
2 Pascal BAILLS 30.12.64
3 Manuel DOS SANTOS 28.03.74
5 Nenad DZODIC (Yug) 04.01.77
23 Pascal FUGIER 22.09.68
17 Thierry LAUREY 17.02.64
15 Michel RODRIGUEZ 25.11.78
Midfielders
20 Uceh AGBO (Nig) 04.04.75
14 Cedric BARBOSA 06.03.76
12 Philippe DELAYE 26.06.75
8 Sylvain DEPLACE 04.01.72
7 Kader FERHAOUI 19.03.65
10 Franck RIZZETTO 29.03.71
6 Jean-Christophe ROUVIERE 04.08.74
27 Franck SAUZEE 28.10.65
Forwards
21 Didier AGATHE 16.08.75
28 Ibrahima BAKAYOKO 31.12.76
22 Frederic GARNY 13.08.74
11 Laurent ROBERT 21.05.75
9 Christophe SANCHEZ 04.10.72
Coach Michel MEZY

NANTES

Goalkeepers
30 Willy GRONDIN 12.10.74
21 Mickael LANDREAU 14.05.79
Defenders
4 Bruno CAROTTI 30.09.72
19 Jean-Marc CHANELET 23.07.68
17 Eric DECROIX 07.03.69
5 Laurent GUYOT 17.12.69
2 Serge LE DIZET 27.06.64
3 Stephane LIEVRE 03.10.72
23 Ludovic MARY 03.07.78
8 Nicolas SAVINAUD 20.11.75
Midfielders
15 Eric CARRIERE 24.05.73
6 Jean-Michel FERRI 07.02.69
10 Jocelyn GOURVENNEC 22.03.72
7 Christophe LEROUX 07.03.69
20 Medhi LEROY 18.04.78
24 Salomon OLEMBE (Cam) 08.12.80
Forwards
18 David ANDREANI 15.01.76
14 Frederic DA ROCHA 16.09.74
11 Javier MAZZONI (Arg) 04.08.72
25 Olivier MONTERRUBIO 08.08.76
9 Samba N'DIAYE (Sen) 30.11.72
13 Adel SELLIMI (Tun) 16.11.72
Coach Reynald DENOUEIX

PARIS ST GERMAIN

Goalkeepers
16 Vincent FERNANDEZ 31.01.75
30 Bruno MIRIEL 05.10.77
1 Christophe REVAULT 22.03.72
Defenders
17 Jimmy ALGERINO 28.10.71
27 Romeo CALENDA 21.08.72
3 Didier DOMI 02.05.78
6 Paul LE GUEN 01.03.64
14 Francis LLACER 09.09.71
4 Bruno NGOTTY 10.06.71
23 Daniel Kenedy PIMENTEL (Por) 18.02.74
5 Alain ROCHE 14.10.67
Midfielders
26 Bernard ALLOU 19.06.75
21 Pierre DUCROCQ 18.12.76
13 Laurent FOURNIER 14.09.64
20 Frank GAVA 03.02.70
8 Vincent GUERIN 22.11.65
19 Jerome LEROY 04.11.74
12 Edwin MURATI 12.11.75
15 Eric RABESANDRATANA 18.09.72
10 RAI Sousa de Oliveira (Bra) 15.05.65
Forwards
11 Patrice LOKO 06.02.70
18 Florian MAURICE 20.01.74
22 Marko PANTELIC (Yug) 15.09.78
9 Marco SIMONE (Ita) 07.01.69
Coach Joel BATS

RENNES

Goalkeepers
30 Fabien DEBEC 18.01.76
16 Tony HEURTEBIS 28.03.76
1 Goran PANDUROVIC (Yug) 16.07.63
Defenders
2 Philippe BRINQUIN 03.06.71
4 Eddy CAPRON 15.01.71
20 Regis LE BRIS 06.12.75
5 Youssef ROSSI (Mor) 28.06.73
12 Michael SILVESTRE 09.08.77
Midfielders
26 Yohann BIGNE 23.08.77
14 Ousmane DABO 08.02.77
10 Marco DI COSTANZO (Ita) 30.10.73
18 Laurent HUARD 26.08.73
6 Loic LAMBERT 25.10.66
21 Cedri REMY 29.10.75
22 David VOISIN 13.06.75
8 Laurent VIAUD 08.10.69
17 Patrick WEISER (Ger) 25.12.71
Forwards
23 Pascal BEDROSSIAN 28.11.74
19 Jean-Claude DARCHEVILLE 25.07.75
13 Nicolas GOUSSE 02.01.76
9 Bernd HOBSCH (Ger) 07.05.68
11 Abdelkrim JINANI (Mor) 02.09.73
24 Benoit LEBRIS 01.12.76
7 Samuel MICHEL 11.02.71
Coach Guy DAVID

STRASBOURG

Goalkeepers
30 Thierry DEBES 13.01.74
16 David KLEIN 18.08.73
1 Alexander VENCEL (Slvk) 02.03.67
Defenders
15 Franck BENHART 07.03.76
5 Jean-Luc DOGON 13.10.67
10 Valerien ISMAEL 28.09.75
6 Godwin OKPARA (Nig) 20.09.72
18 Aziz RABBAH 10.09.76
2 Philippe RASCHKE 19.09.67
3 Yannick ROTT 27.09.74
4 Jan SUCHOPAREK (Cze) 23.09.69
Midfielders
8 Frederic ARPINON 09.05.69
7 Stephane COLLET 13.06.72
14 Olivier DACOURT 25.09.74
23 Francois KELLER 27.10.73
17 Christophe KINET (Bel) 31.12.72
13 Karim M'GOGHI (Bel) 17.04.71
Forwards
9 Gerald BATICLE 10.09.69
12 Denni CONTEH (Den) 14.08.75
21 Pascal NOUMA 06.01.72
11 David ZITELLI 30.10.68
Coach Jacky DUGUEPEROUX

TOULOUSE

Goalkeepers
1 Christophe BRETON 21.05.66
30 Alain GOUAMENE 15.06.66
16 Teddy RICHERT 21.09.74
Goalkeepers
4 Dominique ARRIBAGE 11.05.71
20 Laurent BATTLES 23.09.75
5 Jose Manuel GALDAMES (Arg) 15.06.70
17 Nicolas PAVIOT 17.06.75
3 Didier SANTINI 07.09.68
27 Laurent STRZELCZAK 19.02.71
14 Eric TABORDA 14.01.69
2 Jules TCHIMBAKALA 15.01.71
Midfielders
Eric GARCIN 06.12.65
7 Remy LORET 19.08.72
25 David MONTERO 16.08.75
10 Thierry MOREAU 17.01.67
6 Ernest MTAWALI (Mwi) 10.10.68
15 Frederic PATOUILLARD 13.01.74
Forwards
21 Ahmed MAHARZI 08.03.70
19 Ruben ROSSI (Arg) 28.10.73
11 Laurent SACHY 10.12.68
8 Roman SALAUN 29.01.69
12 Joel TIEHI 12.06.64
22 Jeremy CAMBONI 25.11.76
Coach Alain GIRESSE

GERMANY

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

Goalkeepers
23 Dirk HEINEN 03.12.70
31 Jorg SCHMADTKE 16.03.64
1 Rudiger VOLLBORN 12.02.63
Defenders
3 Markus HAPPE 11.02.72
2 Robert KOVAC (Cro) 06.04.74
20 Dirk LOTTNER 04.03.72
5 Jens NOWOTNY 11.01.744
Christian WORNS 10.05.72
6 Boris ZIVKOVIC (Cro) 15.11.75
Midfielders
22 Stefan BEINLICH 13.01.72
30 Manuel CARDONI (Lux) 22.09.72
10 F. da Rosa EMERSON (Bra) 04.04.76
16 Martin FRYDEK (Cze) 09.03.69
19 Jan HEINTZE 17.08.63
24 Sebastian HELBIG (Den) 25.04.77
7 Nico KOVAC (Cro) 15.10.71
17 Hans-Peter LEHNHOFF 12.07.63
25 Thorsten NEHRBAUER 12.01.78
21 Andreas NEUENDORF 09.02.75
28 Carsten RAMELOW 20.03.74
15 Paulo Roberto RINK (Bra) 21.02.73
26 Thorsten WITTEK 31.12.76
29 Markus ZURASKI 20.03.77
Forwards
14 Markus FELDHOFF 29.08.74
9 Ulf KIRSTEN 04.12.65
11 Erik MEIJER (Hol) 02.08.69
27 Thomas REICHENBERGER 14.10.74
8 Rene RYDLEWICZ 18.07.73
Coach Christoph DAUM

BAYERN MUNICH

Goalkeepers
22 Bernd DREHER 02.11.66
1 Oliver KAHN 15.06.69
12 Sven SCHEUER 19.01.71
Defenders
2 Markus BABBEL 08.09.72
15 Dennis GRASSOW 10.10.71
5 Thomas HELMER 21.04.65
4 Samuel KUFFOUR (Gha) 03.09.76
10 Lothar MATTHAUS 21.03.61
3 Markus MUNCH 07.09.72
8 Thomas STRUNZ 25.04.68
28 Frank WIBLISHAUSER 18.10.77
Midfielders
14 Mario BASLER 18.12.68
32 Emanuel BENTIL (Gha) 03.12.78
17 Thorsten FINK 29.10.67
23 Frank GERSTER 15.04.76
16 Dietmar HAMANN 27.08.73
31 David JAROLIM (Cze) 17.05.79
24 Stefan LEITL 29.08.77
11 Bixente LIZARAZU (Fra) 09.12.69
6 Christian NERLINGER 21.03.73

29 Christian SABA (Gha) 29.12.78
7 Mehmet SCHOLL 16.10.70
18 Michael TARNAT 27.10.69
Forwards
30 Alexander BUGERA 08.08.78
9 Giovane ELBER (Bra) 23.07.72
19 Carsten JANCKER 28.08.74
20 Ruggiero RIZZITELLI (Ita) 02.09.67
21 Alexander ZICKLER 28.02.74
Coach Giovane TRAPATTONI

BOCHUM

Goalkeepers
21 Thomas EMST 23.12.67
1 Uwe GOSPODAREK 06.08.73
Defenders
4 Mirko DICKHAUT 11.01.71
25 Frank FAHRENHORST 24.09.77
3 Torsten KRACHT 04.10.67
19 Axel SUNDERMANN 23.01.68
5 Tomasz WALDOCH (Pol) 10.05.71
Midfielders
13 Norbert HOFMANN 01.01.72
14 Karsten HUTWELKER 27.08.71
6 Peter KOZLE 18.11.67
20 Zoran MAMIC (Cro) 30.09.71
8 Peter PESCHEL 26.01.72
16 Mirco REICHEL 02.12.70
22 Thomas REIS 04.10.73
17 Olaf SCHREIBER 12.09.69
2 Thomas STICKROTH 13.04.65
10 Dariusz WOSZ 08.06.69
Forwards
9 Henryk BALUSZYNSKI (Pol) 15.07.72
12 Yildray BASTURK (Tur) 24.12.78
11 Georgi DONKOV (Bul) 02.06.70
24 Nesat GULUNOGLU (Tur) 04.01.79
23 Sergei YURAN (Rus) 11.06.69
7 Kai MICHALKE 05.04.76
15 Danny WINKLER 16.08.73
18 Roland WOHLFARTH 11.01.63
Coach Klaus TOPPMOLLER

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Goalkeepers
12 Wolfgang DE BEER 02.01.64
1 Stefan KLOS 16.08.71
Defenders
5 Julio CESAR (Bra) 08.03.63
27 Wolfgang FEIERSINGER (Aut) 30.01.65
15 Jurgen KOHLER 06.10.65
16 Martin KREE 27.01.65
6 Matthias SAMMER 05.09.67
3 Rene SCHNEIDER 01.02.73
Midfielders
29 Vladimir BUT (Rus) 07.09.77
4 Steffen FREUND 19.01.70
17 Jorg HEINRICH 06.12.69
14 Paul LAMBERT (Sco) 07.08.69
10 Andreas MOLLER 02.09.67
2 Knut REINHARDT 27.04.68
7 Stefan REUTER 16.10.66
18 Lars RICKEN 10.07.76
26 Frank RIETHMANN 09.12.75
23 A. Silva 'CHIQUINHO' (Bra) 21.03.74
19 Paulo SOUSA 30.08.70
21 Christian TIMM 27.02.79
8 Michael ZORC 25.08.62
Forwards
20 Scott BOOTH (Sco) 16.12.71
9 Stephane CHAPUISAT (Swi) 28.06.69
11 Heiko HERRLICH 03.12.71
30 Jovan KOROVSKI (USA) 18.03.76
22 Ibrahim TANKO (Gha) 25.07.77
Coach Nevio SCALA

Jurgen Kohler, Dortmund

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

Goalkeepers
20 Robert ENKE 24.08.77
1 Uwe KAMPS 12.06.64
Defenders
4 Patrik ANDERSSON (Swe) 18.08.71
17 Hubert FOURNIER (Fra) 03.09.67
21 Markus HAUSWEILER 15.04.76
2 Thomas KASTENMAIER 31.05.66
22 Marcel KETELAER 03.11.77
3 Michael KLINKERT 07.07.68
14 Morten PEDERSEN (Nor) 12.04.72
Midfielders
10 Stefan EFFENBERG 02.08.68
5 Christian HOCHSTATTER 19.10.63
19 Thomas HOERSEN 11.01.72
6 Ioan LUPESCU (Rom) 09.12.68
12 Stephan PASSLACK 24.08.70
7 Karlheinz PFLIPSEN 31.10.70
13 Martin SCHNEIDER 24.11.68
15 Marcel WITECZEK 18.10.68
8 Peter WYNHOFF 29.10.68
Forwards
9 Andrzej JUSKOWIAK (Pol) 03.11.70
11 Jorgen PETTERSSON (Swe) 29.09.75
18 Marco VILLA 18.07.78
Coach Hannes BONGARTZ

DUISBURG

Goalkeepers
1 Holger GEHRKE 22.08.60
12 Thomas GILL (Nor) 16.05.65
Defenders
22 Stefan EMMERLING 10.02.66
7 Slobodan KOMLJENOVIC (Yug) 02.01.71
13 Markus REITER 10.08.76
6 Oliver WESTERBEEK 08.02.66
4 Torsten WOHLERT 10.12.65
Midfielders
14 Miroslav BICANIC (Cro) 29.10.69
3 Dietmar HIRSCH 08.12.71
2 Joachim HOPP 10.07.66
23 Adem KAPIC (Yug) 16.04.75
16 Marc KIENIE 22.10.72
19 Jorg NEUN 07.05.66
17 Thomas PUSCHMANN 28.03.73
15 Horst STEFFEN 03.03.69
21 Thomas VANA 09.10.72
24 Carsten WOLTERS 25.07.69
20 Michael ZEYER 09.06.68
Forwards
8 Markus OSTHOFF 19.11.68
9 Bachirou SALOU (Tog) 15.09.70
25 Niklas SKOOG (Swe) 15.06.74
18 Uwe SPIES 08.07.67
Coach Friedhelm FUNKEL

HAMBURG

Goalkeepers
22 Hans-Jorg BUTT 28.05.74
1 Richard GOLZ 05.06.68
28 Sascha ILIC (Mac) 05.09.70
Defenders
15 Stefan BOGER 01.06.66
4 Jakob FRIIS-HANSEN (Den) 06.03.67
16 Michael MOLATA 10.02.73
25 Stefan SCHNOOR 18.04.71
3 Thomas VOGEL 01.03.67
31 Sven WITTFOT 27.11.74
5 Pawel WOJTALA (Pol) 27.10.72
Midfielders
10 Rodolfo CARDOSO (Arg) 17.10.68
13 Andreas FISCHER 20.10.64
20 Bernd HOLLERBACH 08.12.69
14 Uwe JAHNIG 26.08.69
26 Allan JEPSEN (Den) 04.07.77
7 Sven KMETSCH 13.08.70
11 Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos) 01.01.77
18 Markus SCHOPP (Aut) 22.02.74
21 Harald SPORL 31.10.66
6 Andreas ZEYER 09.06.68
Forwards
9 Karsten BARON 24.04.73
12 Andre BREITENREITER 02.10.73
8 Jacek DEMBINSKI (Pol) 20.12.69
29 Jochen SEITZ 11.10.76
19 Soner UYSAL (Tur) 24.08.77
30 Dirk WEETENDORF 01.01.72
17 Martin ZAFIROV (Bul) 26.12.73
Coach Frank PAGELSDORF

HANSA ROSTOCK

Goalkeepers
26 Perry BRAUTIGAM 28.03.63
21 Daniel KLEWER 04.03.77
1 Martin PIECKENHAGEN 15.11.71
Defenders
3 Christian BEECK 18.12.71
5 Uwe EHLERS 08.03.75
24 Marco LAASER 16.01.77
17 Heiko MARZ 09.07.65
33 Marco REHMER 29.04.72
25 Marco ZALLMANN 17.11.67
Midfielders
4 Jens DOWE 01.06.68
15 Ralf EWEN 11.02.72
16 Thomas GANSAUGE 04.06.70
7 Martin GROTH 20.10.69
2 Timo LANGE 19.01.68
9 Toni MICEVSKI (Mac) 20.01.70
19 Stefan STUDER 30.01.64
13 Borislav TOMOSKI (Mac) 21.09.72
8 Hilmar WEILANDT 29.09.66
12 Radwan YASSER (Egy) 22.04.73
Forwards
14 Sergei BARBAREZ (Bos) 17.09.71
20 Steffen BAUMGART 05.01.72
11 Slawomir CHALASKIEWICZ (Pol) 29.11.63
18 Slawomir MAJAK (Pol) 12.01.69
22 Igor PAMIC (Cro) 19.11.69
10 Enrico ROVER 30.09.69
Coach Ewald LEINEN

HERTHA BERLIN

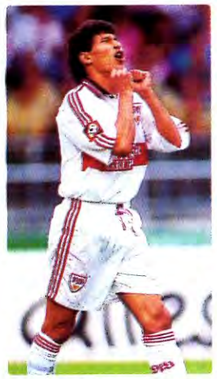
Goalkeepers
1 Christian FIEDLER 27.03.75
12 Gabor KIRALY (Hun) 01.04.76
Defenders
4 Dick VAN BURIK (Hol) 20.11.73
2 Hendrik HERZOG 02.04.69
8 Steffen KARL 03.02.70
27 Gunnar SAUER 11.06.64
23 Oliver SCHMIDT 14.09.73
6 Eyjolfur SVERRISSON (Ice) 03.08.68
15 Hasan VURAL (Tur) 17.12.73
Midfielders
18 Pal DARDAI (Hun) 16.03.76
17 Michel DINZEY 15.10.72
24 Christian FAHRMANN 05.10.75
21 Michael HARTMANN 11.07.74
7 Sergei MANDREKO (Rus) 01.08.71
10 Kjetil REKDAL (Hol) 06.11.68
19 Andreas SCHMIDT 14.09.73
16 Sixten VEIT 07.01.70
Forwards
25 Marc ARNOLD 19.09.70
14 Ante COVIC (Cro) 31.08.75
20 Axel KRUSE 28.09.67
22 Carsten LAKIES 08.01.71
11 Michael PREETZ 17.08.67
26 Marcel RATH 03.09.75
9 Bryan ROY (Hol) 12.02.70
13 Alphonse TCHAMI (Cam) 14.02.71
Coach Jurgen ROBER

KAISERSLAUTERN

Goalkeepers
21 Petr KOUBA (Cze) 28.11.69
1 Andreas REINKE 10.01.69
Defenders
5 Miroslav KADLEC (Cze) 22.06.64
24 Harry KOCH 15.11.69
4 Axel ROOS 19.08.64
19 Oliver SCHAFER 27.02.69
16 Michael SCHJONBERG-CHRISTENSEN (Den) 19.01.67
Midfielders
3 Michael BALLACK 26.09.76
6 Andreas BREHME 09.11.60
21 Andreas BUCK 29.12.67
10 Thomas FRANCK 24.02.71
2 Frank GREINER 03.07.66
7 Marian HRISTOV (Bul) 29.07.73
26 Pascal 'Karibe' OJIGWE (Nig) 11.12.76
17 Rodrigues 'RATINHO' (Bra) 08.06.71
23 Thomas RIEDL 18.06.76
8 Martin WAGNER 24.02.68
Forwards
12 Stefan ERTL 21.04.69
9 Pavel KUKA (Cze) 19.07.68
11 Olaf MARSCHALL 19.03.66
18 Jurgen RISCHE 30.10.70
Coach Otto REHHAGEL

KARLSRUHE

Goalkeepers
18 Simon JENTZSCH 04.05.76
1 Claus REITMAIER 17.03.64
Defenders
21 Martin JUNG 11.09.71
14 Dubravko KOLINGER (Cro) 29.11.75
19 Raphael KRAUSS 25.06.73
2 Gunther METZ 08.08.67
4 David REGIS (Fra) 01.12.68
3 Burkhard REICH 01.12.64
5 Thomas RITTER 10.10.67
5 Michael WITTWER 18.02.67
Midfielders
15 Markus BAHR 10.09.74
29 Jens BAUMER 09.08.78
28 Mike BODENSTEIN 17.09.78
10 Thomas HASSLER 30.05.66
23 Peter HEIDLER 19.11.75
16 Thomas HENGEN 22.09.74
22 Peter JUNG 22.09.68
17 Marc KELLER (Fra) 14.01.68
7 Alexander NYARKO (Gha) 15.10.73
8 Gunther SCHEPENS (Bel) 04.05.73
11 Christian WUCK 09.06.73
Forwards
12 Sean DUNDEE 07.12.72
27 Timur EROGLU (Tur) 22.03.77
9 Radoslav GILEWICZ (Pol) 08.05.71
20 Sergei KIRIAKOV (Rus) 01.01.70
13 Markus SCHROTH 25.01.75
24 Christian SEEBER 11.02.73
Coach Winfried SCHAFER



Krassimir Balakov, Stuttgart

KOLN

Goalkeepers
16 Michael KRAFT 23.04.66
1 Andreas MENGER 11.09.72
Defenders
3 Karsten BAUMANN 14.10.69
20 Thomas CICHON 09.07.76
22 Marcell FENSCH 23.08.75
5 Michael KOSTNER 07.02.69
39 Tuncay NADAROGLU (Tur) 22.07.74
4 Bodo SCHMIDT 03.09.67
6 Dick SCHUSTER 29.12.67
Midfielders
19 Henrik ANDERSEN (Den) 07.05.65
12 Christer FURSTH (Swe) 06.07.70
7 Ralf HAUPTMANN 20.09.68
8 Dorinel MUNTEANU (Rom) 25.06.68
15 Alexander RYSCHKOW (Rus) 11.10.74
2 Uwe SCHERR 16.11.66
18 Pablo THIAM (Gui) 03.01.74
23 Rene TRETSCHOK 23.12.68
26 Dennis VOGT 20.05.78
10 Goran VUCEVIC (Cro) 18.05.71
25 Thomas ZDEBEL 25.05.73
Forwards
13 Holger GAISSMAYER 02.07.70
17 Stefan KOHN 09.10.65
9 Anton POLSTER (Aut) 10.03.64
24 Michael ROSELE 07.10.74
11 Ion VLADOIU (Rom) 05.11.68
Coach Peter NEURURER

MUNICH 1860

Goalkeepers
12 Daniel HOFFMAN 27.10.71
25 Michael HOFMAN 03.11.72
1 Bernd MEIER 11.02.72
Defenders
3 Holger FACH 06.09.62
15 Holger GREILICH 12.07.71
22 Matthias HAMANN 10.02.68
6 Andre HOFSCHNEIDER 10.06.70
2 Jochen KIENTZ 17.09.72
5 Rayk SCHRODER 25.12.74
4 Marco WALKER (Swi) 02.05.70
Midfielders
33 Manfred BENDER 24.05.66
23 Jorg BOHME 22.01.74
13 Harald CERNY (Aut) 13.09.73
14 Ronny EMST 07.05.76
8 Besnik HASI (Cro) 25.12.71
7 Horst HELDT 09.12.69
16 Jens JEREMIES 05.03.74
24 Stefan MALZ 15.06.72
10 Peter NOWAK (Pol) 05.07.64
19 Abedi PELE (Gha) 05.11.64
20 Miroslav STEVIC (Yug) 07.01.70
Forwards
18 Paul AGOSTINO (Aut) 09.06.75
9 Olaf BODDEN 04.05.68
17 Daniel BORIMIROV (Bul) 15.01.70
11 Bernhard WINKLER 24.06.66
Coach Werner LORANT

SCHALKE

Goalkeepers
1 Jens LEHMANN 10.11.69
22 Mathias SCHOBER 08.04.76
Defenders
4 Yves EIGENRAUCH 24.04.71
25 Johan DE KOCK (Hol) 25.10.64
21 Marco KURZ 16.05.69
2 Thomas LINKE 26.12.69
19 Olaf THON 01.05.66
Midfielders
8 Ingo ANDERBRUGGE 02.01.64
13 Markus ANFANG 12.06.74
19 Michael BUSKENS 19.03.68
15 Arnold DYBEK 04.05.75
16 Oliver HELD 10.09.72
12 Marco VAN HOOGDALEM (Hol) 23.05.72
14 Denis KLUJEW (Rus) 07.09.73
3 Radoslav LATAL (Cze) 06.01.70
6 Andreas MULLER 13.12.62
20 Jiri NEMEC (Cze) 16.05.66
24 Marc WILMOTS (Bel) 22.02.69
Forwards
18 Rene EIJKELKAMP (Hol) 06.04.64
7 Michael GOOSSENS (Bel) 30.11.73
11 Martin MAX 07.08.68
9 Youri MULDER (Hol) 23.03.69
Coach Huub STEVENS

STUTTGART

Goalkeepers
28 Eberhard TRAUTNER 07.02.67
1 Franz WOHLFAHRT (Aut) 01.07.64
25 Marc ZIEGLER 13.06.76
Defenders
4 Thomas BERTHOLD 12.11.64
19 Michael BOCHTLER 15.10.75
21 Jochen ENDRESS 03.11.72
17 Marco GRIMM 16.06.72
3 Thorsten LEGAT 07.11.68
30 Frank POSCH 21.02.73
14 Thomas SCHNEIDER 24.11.72
2 Martin SPANRING 14.10.69
5 Frank VERLAAT (Hol) 05.03.68
Midfielders
10 Krassimir BALAKOV (Bul) 29.03.66
16 Kristijan DJORDJEVIC (Yug) 06.01.76
8 Marco HABER 21.09.71
7 Matthias HAGNER 15.08.74
22 Krisztian LISZTES (Hun) 02.07.76
23 Gerhard POSCHNER 23.09.69
12 Danny SCHWARZ 11.05.75
20 Zvonimir SOLDO (Cro) 02.11.67
6 Murat YAKIN (Swz) 15.09.74
Forwards
27 Jonathan AKPOBORIE (Nig) 20.10.68
16 Matthias BECKER 19.04.74
11 Fredi BOBIC 30.10.71
9 Sreto RISTIC (Yug) 07.02.76
Coach Joachim LOW

WERDER BREMEN

Goalkeepers
1 Oliver RECK 27.02.65
20 Frank ROST 30.06.73
Defenders
24 Sven BENKEN 20.04.70
15 Dieter FREY 31.10.72
31 Jens LELLEK 31.01.68
4 Hany RAMZY (Egy) 10.03.69
19 Victor SKRIPNIK (Ukr) 19.11.69
8 Bernhard TRARES 18.08.65
27 Hendrik VOLZKE 22.03.75
3 Raphael WICKY (Swz) 26.04.77
13 Andree WIEDENER 14.03.70
14 Thomas WOLTER 04.10.63
Midfielders
17 Marco BODE 23.07.69
28 Christian BRAND 23.05.72
5 Dieter EILTS 13.12.64
18 Andreas HERZOG (Aut) 10.09.68
7 Heimo PFEIFENBERGER (Aut) 29.12.66
30 Bjorn SCHIERENBECK 12.07.74
2 Heiko SCHOLZ 07.01.66
6 Jens TODT 05.01.70
Forwards
10 Havard FLO (Nor) 04.04.70
22 Torsten FRINGS 22.11.76
9 Bruno LABBADIA 08.02.66
23 Arie VAN LENT 31.08.70
Coach Hans-Peter DORNER

WOLFSBURG

Goalkeepers
12 Holger HIEMANN 12.01.68
1 Uwe ZIMMERMAN 11.02.62
Defenders
4 Jann JENSEN (Den) 22.02.69
6 Jens KELLER 24.11.70
15 Peter KLEESCHATZKY 01.06.70
19 Marijan KOVACEVIC (Cro) 31.08.73
16 Pavel NOVOTNY (Cze) 14.09.73
5 Zoran TOMCIC (Cro) 26.02.70
Midfielders
8 Holger BALLWANZ 07.09.67
18 Detlev DAMMEIER 18.10.68
10 Chad DEERING (USA) 02.09.70
20 Sead KAPETANOVIC (Bos) 21.01.72
2 Markus KULLIG 04.11.74
7 Roy PRAGER 22.09.71
13 Claudio REYNA (USA) 20.07.73
21 Michael SPIES 09.07.65
3 Matthias STAMMANN 08.05.68
24 Andreas WINKLER 01.12.69
Forwards
11 Stefan MEISSNER 08.03.73
17 Sven RATKE 03.01.72
9 Piotr TYSZKIEWICZ (Pol) 04.09.70
Coach Willi REIMANN

Dieter Eilts, Werder Bremen

ITALY

ATALANTA

Goalkeepers
1 Alberto FONTANA 23.01.67
12 Davide PINATO 15.03.64
Defenders
13 Nicola BOSELLI 12.07.71
5 Massimo CARRERA 22.04.64
16 Robert ENGLARO (Slov) 28.08.69
7 Paolo FOGLIO 08.09.75
24 Gianluca GIBELLINI 20.01.76
4 Zoron MIRKOVIC (Yug) 21.09.71
26 Pierre Giorgio REGONESI 22.02.79
21 Stefano ROSSINI 02.02.71
22 Fabio RUSTICO 20.05.76
3 Andrea SOTTIL 04.01.74
Midfielders
2 Walter BONACINA 30.07.64
15 Angelo CARBONE 23.03.68
6 Ljubisa DUNDJERSKI (Yug) 26.05.72
8 Fabio GALLO 11.09.70
25 Massimo MUTARELLI 13.01.78
19 Massimo ORLANDO 26.05.71
20 Joakim PERSSON (Swe) 03.04.75
10 Marco SGRO 09.05.70
Forwards
11 Nicola CACCIA 10.04.70
23 Vincenzo CHIANESE 14.01.76
9 Cristiano LUCARELLI 04.10.75
18 Federico MAGALLANES (Uru) 22.08.76
Coach Emiliano MONDONICO

BARI

Goalkeepers
12 Luca GENTILI 31.03.72
27 Giovanni INDIVERI 29.09.74
1 Francesco MANCINI 10.10.68
Defenders
2 Luigi GARZYA 07.07.69
24 Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE 20.10.76
6 Roberto RIPA 29.10.67
23 Carlo SASSARINI 14.11.71
22 Luigi SALA 21.02.74
Midfielders
7 Mauro BRESSAN 05.01.71
25 Carlo CARDASCIO 06.11.79
16 Roberto CAU 19.03.76
15 Diego DE ASCENTIS 31.07.76
4 Gaetano DE ROSA 10.05.73
10 Thomas DOLL (Ger) 09.04.66
21 Rodolfo GIORGETTI 19.08.71
8 Klas INGESSON (Swe) 20.08.68
5 Gian Paolo MANIGHETTI 24.01.69
13 Michele MARCOLINI 02.10.75
18 Davide OLIVARES 21.06.71
20 Lorenso SIBILIANO 10.07.78
3 Gianluca SORDO 02.12.69
14 Sergio VOLPI 02.02.74
19 Gian Luca ZAMBROTTA 19.02.77
Forwards
17 Miguel GUERRERO (Col) 07.09.67
11 Philemon MASINGA (SA) 21.06.69
9 Nicola VENTOLA 24.05.78
Coach Eugenio FASCETTI

BOLOGNA

Goalkeepers
1 Francesco ANTONIOLI 14.09.69
22 Alex BRUNNER 08.12.73
12 Andrea FERRARI 15.06.77
Defenders
20 Mauro BONOMI 23.08.72
2 Daniele CARNASCIALI 06.09.66
21 Giovanni DALL'IGNA 16.08.72
17 Antonio FOSCHINI 30.10.77
15 Fabio GIANELLA 22.02.78
24 Amedeo MANGONE 12.07.68
3 Michele PARAMATTI 10.03.68
23 Cristiano PAVONE 28.06.72
27 Stefano TORRISI 07.05.71
26 Luca VENTURI 24.03.79
Midfielders
8 Massimo BRAMBILLA 04.03.73
6 Paolo CRISTALLINI 20.09.71
9 Igor KOLYVANOV (Rus) 06.03.68
11 Oscar MAGONI 22.09.67
5 Giancarlo MAROCCHI 04.07.65
13 Antonio MASCHIO 01.04.78
16 Carlo NERVO 29.10.71
4 Andrea SENO 01.02.66

Gabriel Batistuta, Fiorentina

14 Igor SHALIMOV (Rus) 02.02.69
Forwards
19 Kennet ANDERSSON (Swe) 06.10.67
10 Roberto BAGGIO 18.02.67
7 Pierpaolo BRESCIANI 21.07.70
18 Davide FONTOLAN 24.02.66
25 Moham KALLON (Sie) 06.10.79
Coach Renzo ULIVIERI

BRESCIA

Goalkeepers
Nicola PAVARINI 24.02.74
Giacomo ZUNICO 02.12.60
Defenders
Daniele ADANI 10.07.74
Manfred BINZ (Ger) 22.09.65
Aimo DIANA 02.01.78
Luca LUZARDI 18.02.70
Rosario PERGOLIZZI 07.10.68
Alberto SAVINO 01.09.73
Midfielders
Salvadore BACCI 12.04.65
Tal BANIN (Isr) 07.03.71
Marco BAROLLO 31.07.72
Antonio CRINITI 29.10.70
Luciano DE PAOLA 30.05.61
Cristiano DONI 01.04.73
Antonio FILIPPINI 03.07.73
Emanuele FILIPPINI 03.07.73
Ivan JAVORCIC (Cro) 24.01.79
Alessandro ROMANO 29.09.69
Ioan Ovidiu SABAU (Rom) 12.02.68
Stefano TAGLIANI 02.01.77
Forwards
Girolamo BIZZARRI 01.06.67
Emiliano BONAZZOLI 20.01.79
Dario HUBNER 28.04.67
Miljenko KOVACIC (Cro) 19.03.73
Maurizio NERI 21.03.65
Andrea PIRLO 19.05.79
Coach Giuseppe MATERAZZI

EMPOLI

Goalkeepers
1 Angelo PAGOTTO 21.11.73
12 Marco ROCCATI 01.07.75
Defenders
5 Daniele BALDINI 21.02.64
8 Stefano BETTELLA 08.07.70
6 Stefano BIANCONI 31.12.68
13 Fabio Cribari BINHO (Bra) 08.04.75
21 Dario DAINELLI 09.06.79
7 Rosario GUARINO 18.07.71
24 Mauro MUSCO 10.03.78
14 Marco PECORARI 21.09.77
17 Vittorio PUSCEDDU 12.02.64
2 Miodrag VUKOTIC (Yug) 18.11.73
Midfielders
Raffaele AMETRANO 15.02.73
27 Fabrizio FICINI 11.10.73
22 Claudio GRECO 05.03.78
26 Tonino MARTINO 13.06.69
10 Giovanni MARTUSCIELLO 19.08.71
19 Emanuele MASINI 04.08.73
4 Alessandro PANE 20.11.67
16 Francesco PRATALI 17.01.79
Max TONETTO 18.11.74
Forwards
23 Antonio ARCADIO 01.11.72
9 Fabio ARTICO 09.12.73
20 Luca BONFANTI 29.10.76
18 Massimiliano CAPPELLINI 21.01.71
11 Carmine ESPOSITO 30.09.70
29 Andrea MUSSI 25.10.77
Coach Luciano SPALLETTI

FIORENTINA

Goalkeepers
12 Giacomo DONDOLI 11.01.79
22 Valerio FIORI 27.04.69
1 Francesco TOLDO 02.12.71
Defenders
16 Simone BARTOLONI 14.03.78
11 Stefano BETTARINI 06.02.72
2 Giulio FALCONE 31.05.74
6 Aldo FIRICANO 12.03.67
15 Roberto MIRRI 21.08.78
5 Pasquale PADALINO 26.07.72
3 Michele SERENA 10.03.70
27 Andrea TAROZZI 17.10.73
Midfielders
24 Christian AMOROSO 22.09.76
21 Mirko BENIN 06.06.78
8 Emiliano BIGICA 04.09.73
14 Sandro COIS 09.06.72
17 Andrei KANCHELSKIS (Rus) 23.01.69
20 Domenico MORFEO 16.01.76
4 Giovanni PIACENTINI 09.04.68
23 Anselmo ROBBIATI 01.01.70
10 Manuel RUI COSTA (Por) 29.03.72
7 Stefan SCHWARZ (Swe) 18.04.69
Forwards
9 Gabriel BATISTUTA (Arg) 01.02.69
19 Davide DIONIGI 10.01.74
18 Francesco FLACHI 08.04.75
25 Luis OLIVEIRA (Bel) 24.03.69
Coach Alberto MALESANI

INTERNAZIONALE

Goalkeepers
12 Andrea MAZZANTINI 11.07.68
1 Gianluca PAGLIUCA 18.12.66
Defenders
2 Giuseppe BERGOMI 22.12.63
26 Matteo FERRARI 05.12.79
7 Salvatore FRESI 16.01.73
5 Fabio GALANTE 20.11.73
21 Luca MEZZANO 01.08.77
24 Luigi SARTOR 30.01.75
3 Massimo TARANTINO 20.05.70
16 Taribo WEST (Nig) 26.03.74
Midfielders
18 Nicola BERTI 14.04.67
15 Benoit CAUET (Fra) 02.05.69
6 Youri DJORKAEFF (Fra) 08.03.68
17 Francesco MORIERO 31.03.69
22 Raffaele NUZZO 21.02.73
14 Diego SIMEONE (Arg) 28.04.70
8 Aron WINTER (Hol) 01.03.67
4 Javier ZANETTI (Arg) 10.08.73
13 Jose Moedin ZE ELIAS (Bra) 25.09.76
Forwards
27 Marco BRANCA 06.01.65
23 Maurizio GANZ 13.10.68
11 Nwankwo KANU (Nig) 01.08.76
20 Alvaro RECOBA (Uru) 17.03.76
10 Luis Nazario RONALDO (Bra) 22.09.76
9 Ivan ZAMORANO (Chi) 18.01.67
Coach Luigi SIMONI

JUVENTUS

Goalkeepers
17 Morgan DE SANCTIS 26.03.77
1 Angelo PERUZZI 16.02.70
12 Michelangelo RAMPULLA 10.08.62
Defenders
15 Alessandro BIRINDELLI 12.11.74
6 Manuel Texeira DIMAS (Por) 16.02.69
2 Ciro FERRARA 11.02.67
13 Mark IULIANO 12.08.73
4 Paolo MONTERO (Uru) 03.09.71
22 Gianluca PESSOTTO 11.08.70
3 Moreno TORRICELLI 23.01.70
23 Marco ZAMBONI 07.12.77
Midfielders
8 Antonio CONTE 31.07.69
14 Didier DESCHAMPS (Fra) 15.10.68
7 Angelo DI LIVIO 26.07.66
5 Fabio PECCHIA 24.08.73
20 Alessio TACCHINARDI 23.07.75
21 Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra) 23.06.72
Forwards
16 Nicola AMORUSO 29.08.74
10 Alessandro DEL PIERO 09.11.74
18 Daniel FONSECA (Uru) 13.09.69
9 Filippo INZAGHI 09.08.73
11 Michele PADOVANO 28.08.66
Coach Marcello LIPPI

LAZIO

Goalkeepers
22 Marco BALLOTTA 03.04.64
1 Luca MARCHEGIANI 22.02.66
12 Fernando ORSI 12.09.59
Defenders
6 Jose Antonio CHAMOT (Arg) 17.05.69
5 Giuseppe FAVALLI 08.01.72
17 Guerino GOTTARDI 18.12.70
20 Alessandro GRANDONI 22.7.77
3 Giovanni LOPEZ 23.05.67
2 Paolo NEGRO 16.04.72
13 Alessandro NESTA 19.03.76
15 Giuseppe PANCARO 26.08.71
Midfielders
25 Matias ALMEYDA (Arg) 21.12.73
14 Diego FUSER 11.11.68
21 Vladimir JUGOVIC (Yug) 30.08.69
10 Roberto MANCINI 27.11.64
4 Dario MARCOLIN 28.10.71
18 Pavel NEDVED (Cze) 30.08.72
16 Paul OKON (Aus) 05.04.72
23 Giorgio VENTURIN 09.07.68
Forwards
19 Alen BOKSIC 21.01.70
8 Renato BUSO 19.12.69
9 Pierluigi CASIRAGHI 04.03.69
7 Roberto RAMBAUDI 12.01.66
11 Giuseppe SIGNORI 17.02.68
Coach Sven Goran ERIKSSON

LECCE

Goalkeepers
12 Ivan AIARDI 16.01.71
1 Fabrizio LORIERI 11.02.64
Defenders
17 Paolo ANNONI 21.01.70
5 Giuseppe BARONCHELLI 09.03.71
14 Francesco BELLUCCI 23.02.73
26 Pierre CYPRIEN (Fra) 12.02.69
3 Fabio MACELLARI 23.08.74
2 Carmelo MANCUSO 03.10.65
25 Named SAKIC (Yug) 15.06.71
6 Richiard VANIGLIO 01.06.71
23 William VIALI 16.11.74
Midfielders
22 Giuseppe ANASTASI 24.09.74
19 Stefano CASALE 13.02.71
24 Alessandro CONTICCHIO 19.01.74
15 Francesco COZZA 19.01.74
8 Mark EDUSEI (Gha) 29.09.76
10 Riccardo MASPERO 19.02.70
7 Pietro PARENTE 09.11.71
4 Luigi PIANGERELLI 19.10.73
19 Giovanni PITTALIS 18.03.71
20 Orazio RUSSO 06.10.73
Forwards
21 Raffaele CONSTANTINO 18.11.75
9 Francesco DE FRANCESCO 21.09.77
11 Francesco PALMIERI 24.09.67
16 Maurizio ROSSI 16.02.70
Coach Claudio Cesare PRANDELLI

MILAN

Goalkeepers
12 Simone BRAGLIA 22.07.62
1 Sebastiano ROSSI 20.07.64
23 Massimi TAIBI 18.02.70
Defenders
2 Winston BOGARDE (Hol) 22.10.70
21 Giuseppe CARDONE 03.03.74
5 Alessanddro COSTACURTA 24.04.66
15 Andre CRUZ (Bra) 20.09.68
3 Paolo MALDINI 26.06.68
24 Dario SMOJE (Cro) 19.09.78
17 Chrstian ZIEGE (Ger) 01.02.72
Midfielders
4 Demetrio ALBERTINI 23.08.71
13 Ibraham BA 12.11.73
20 Zvonimir BOBAN (Cro) 08.10.68
12 Simone BRAGLIA 22.07.62
22 Daniele DAINO 08.09.79
7 Edgar DAVIDS (Hol) 13.03.73
8 Marcel DESAILLY (Fra) 07.09.68
19 Glampiero MAINI 29.09.71
10 Dejan SAVICEVIC (Yug) 15.09.66
Forwards
11 Andreas ANDERSSON (Swe) 10.04.74
9 Patrick KLUIVERT (Hol) 01.07.76
18 Matteo PELATTI 17.03.78
14 George WEAH (Lib) 01.10.66
Coach Fabio CAPELLO

NAPOLI

Goalkeepers
23 Ferdinando COPPOLA 10.06.78
12 Raffaele DI FUSCO 06.10.61
1 Giuseppe TAGLIALATELA 02.01.69
Defenders
2 Roberto AYALA (Arg) 12.04.73
15 Francesco BALDINI 14.03.74
22 Bertrand CRASSON (Bel) 05.10.71
5 Mauro FACCI 26.11.71
16 Luigi MALAFRONTE 02.12.78
13 Luigi PANARELLI 26.04.76
6 William PRUNIER (Fra) 14.08.67
21 Alessandro SBRIZZO 11.04.75
3 Raffaele SERGIO 27.08.66
Midfielders
14 Luca ALTOMARE 14.01.72
24 Angelo CIMADOMO 11.03.78
20 Massimiliano ESPOSITO 27.05.72
18 Roberto GORETTI 28.05.76
8 Raffaele LONGO 06.09.77
4 Fabio ROSSITTO 21.09.71
19 Gennaro SCARLATO 03.05.77
7 Francesco TURRINI 18.10.65
Forwards
9 Claudio BELLUCCI 31.05.75
11 Francisco CALDERON (Arg) 24.10.70
10 Igor PROTTI 24.09.67
Coach Bortolo MUTTI

Enrico Chiesa, Parma

PARMA

Goalkeepers
1 Gian Luigi BUFFON 28.01.78
12 Matteo GUARDALBEN 05.06.74
24 Alessandro NISTA 10.07.65
Defenders
16 Luigi APOLLONI 02.05.67
3 Antonio BENARRIVO 21.08.68
17 Fabio CANNAVARO 13.09.73
27 Ivan FRANCESCHINI 07.12.76
6 Mauro MILANESE 17.09.71
14 Roberto MUSSI 25.08.63
21 Lilian THURAM (Fra) 01.01.72
2 Jose Ferreira ZE MARIA (Bra) 25.07.73
Midfielders
8 Dino BAGGIO 24.07.71
26 Simone BARONE 30.04.78
Jesper BLOMQVIST (Swe) 05.02.74
5 Daniel BRAVO (Fra) 09.02.63
9 Massimo CRIPPA 17.05.65
4 Stefano FIORE 17.04.75
18 Federico GIUNTI 06.08.71
19 Pierluigi ORLANDINI 09.10.72
15 Reynald PEDROS (Fra) 10.10.71
7 Nestor SENSINI (Arg) 12.10.66
13 Mario STANIC (Cro) 10.04.72
10 Pietro STRADA 11.12.69
Forwards
25 ADAILTON Martins (Bra) 24.01.77
20 Enrico CHIESA 29.12.70
11 Hernan CRESPO (Arg) 05.07.75
22 Filippo MANIERO 11.09.72
23 Alessandro MELLI 11.12.69
Coach Carlo ANCELOTTI

PIACENZA

Goalkeepers
22 Sergio MARCON 09.11.70
1 Matteo SERENI 11.02.75
Defenders
5 Mirko CONTE 12.08.74
20 Daniele COZZI 04.09.78
6 Daniele DELLI CARRI 18.09.71
2 Cieto POLONIA 04.09.68
14 Marco ROSSI 09.09.64
13 Stefano SACCHETTI 10.08.72
3 Paolo TRAMEZZANI 30.07.70
Midfielders
4 Roberto BORDIN 10.01.65
18 Alessandro MAZZOLA 15.06.69
15 Marco PIOVANELLI 07.04.74
16 Giuseppe SCIENZA 14.10.66
10 Giovanni STROPPA 24.01.68
17 Aladino VALOTI 09.01.66
Forwards
19 Simone INZAGHI 05.04.76
23 Luca MATTEASSI 23.01.79
9 Roberto MURGITA 11.11.68
11 Gian Pietro PIOVANI 12.06.68
7 Massimo RASTELLI 27.12.68
8 Fabian VALTOLINA 10.06.71
24 Francesco ZERBINI 26.10.79
Coach Vincenzo GUERINI

ROMA

Goalkeepers
23 Andrea CAMPAGNOLO 17.06.78
27 Antonio CHIMENTI 30.06.70
1 Michael KONSEL (Aut) 06.03.62
Defenders
6 ALDAIR dos Santos (Bra) 30.11.65
2 Maro de Moraes CAFU (Bra) 19.06.70
5 Vincent CANDELA (Fra) 24.10.73
22 Cesar GOMEZ (Spa) 23.10.67
20 Giorgio LUCENTI 19.09.75
16 Matteo PIVOTTO 05.09.74
15 Cristian SERVIDEI 11.12.72
21 Omari TETRADZE (Rus) 13.10.69
Midfielders
3 Filippo DAL MORO 11.08.70
4 Luigi DI BIAGIO 03.06.71
11 Eusebio DI FRANCESCO 08.09.69
18 Ivan HELGUERA (Spa) 28.03.75
8 Cristiano SCAPOLO 05.10.70
17 Damiano TOMMASI 17.05.74
13 Rogerio Nunes VAGNER (Bra) 19.03.73
Forwards
9 Abel BALBO (Arg) 01.06.66
14 Lampros CHOUTOS 07.12.79
24 Marco DELVECCHIO 07.04.73
19 Carmine GAUTIERI 20.07.70
7 Paulo SERGIO (Bra) 02.06.69
10 Francesco TOTTI 27.09.76
Coach Zdenek ZEMAN

SAMPDORIA

Goalkeepers
12 Marco AMBROSIO 30.05.73
1 Fabrizio FERRON 05.09.65
22 Giovanni SANNINO 13.03.77
Defenders
2 David BALLERI 28.03.69
6 Marcello CASTELLINI 02.01.73
24 Oumar DIENG (Fra) 30.12.72
4 Marco FRANCESCHETTI 19.01.67
3 Miguel F. Vieira HUGO (Por) 11.08.76
17 Alessandro LAMONICA 24.05.73
5 Moreno MANNINI 15.08.62
11 Sinisa MIHALJLOVIC (Yug) 20.02.69
7 Emanuele PESARESI 01.12.76
Midfielders
12 Marco AMBROSIO 30.05.73
14 Alain BOGHOSSIAN (Fra) 27.10.70
16 Christian KAREMBEU (Fra) 03.12.70
8 Pierre LAIGLE (Fra) 12.09.70
15 Fausto SALSANO 18.12.62
21 Alessio SCARCHILLI 10.09.72
19 Simone VERGASSOLA 24.01.76
20 Juan Sebastian VERON (Arg) 09.03.75
Forwards
23 Daniele DICHIO (Eng) 19.10.74
18 Jurgen KLINSMANN (Ger) 30.07.64
9 Vincenzo MONTELLA 18.06.74
10 Angel MORALES (Arg) 16.04.75
13 Sandro TOVALIERI 15.02.65
25 Nicola ZANINI 26.03.74
Coach Luis Cesar MENOTTI

Jurgen Klinsmann, Sampdoria

UDINESE

Goalkeepers
Massimiliano CANIATO 19.10.67
Defenders
Valerio BERTOTTO 15.01.73
Giovanni BIA 24.10.68
Alessandro CALORI 29.08.66
Gilberto D'IGNAZIO 11.12.68
Regis GENEAUX (Bel) 30.08.73
Thomas HELVEG (Den) 24.06.71
Alessandro PIERINI 22.03.73
Midfielders
Marcio AMOROSO (Bra) 05.07.74
Jonathan BACHINI 05.06.75
Massimiliano CAPPIOLI 17.01.68
Joachim FERNANDEZ (Fra) 06.12.72
Mohammed GARGO (Gha) 19.06.75
Giuliano GIANNICHEDDA 21.09.74
Martin JORGENSEN (Den) 06.10.75
EDli LOUHENAPESSY (Hol) 14.10.75
Alessandro ORLANDO 01.06.70
Adil RAMZI (Mar) 14.07.77
SANDA (Cam) 09.11.81
Johan WALEM (Bel) 01.02.72
Forwards
Stephen APPIAH (Gha) 24.12.80
Oliver BIERHOFF (Ger) 01.05.68
Hazem EMAM (Egy) 10.05.75
Thomas LOCATELLI 09.06.76
Paolo POGGI 16.02.71
Coach Alberto ZACCHERONI

VICENZA

Goalkeepers
22 Pierluigi BRIVIO 21.05.69
1 Luca MONDINI 25.02.70
12 Roberto VERDI 10.05.77
Defenders
16 Massimo BEGHETTO 19.11.68
5 Davide BELOTTI 24.05.72
24 Ricardo CANALS (Uru) 26.09.70
3 Francesco COCO 08.01.77
18 Giacomo DICARA 08.01.72
17 Sebastiano SAPIENZA 25.01.80
21 Lorenzo STOVINI 24.11.76
Midfielders
15 Massimo AMBROSINI 29.05.77
6 Roberto BARONIOI 11.12.77
4 Domenico DI CARLO 23.03.64
13 Fabio FIRMANI 26.05.78
8 Gustavo MENDEZ (Uru) 03.02.71
2 Paolo PASQUALIN 28.01.79
10 Fabio VIVIANI 29.09.66
14 Lamberto ZAULI 19.07.71
Forwards
23 Daniele AMBROSETTI 07.08.73
20 Arturo DI NAPOLI 18.04.74
11 Alessandro IANNUZZI 09.10.75
9 Pasquale LUISO 30.11.69
19 Marcelo OTERO (Uru) 14.04.71
7 Marco SCHENARDI 03.03.68
Coach Francesco GUIDOLIN

SPAIN

ATHLETIC BILBAO

Goalkeepers
Imanol ETXEBERRIA 27.03.73
Juan VALENCIA 18.09.71
Defenders
Inigo LARRAINZAR 05.06.71
Rafael ALKORTA 16.09.68
Aitor KARANKA 18.09.73
Francisco FERREIRA 22.05.67
Aitor LARRAZABAL 21.07.71
Mikel LASA 09.09.71
Oscar TABUENKA 21.04.71
Roberto RIOS 08.10.71
Midfielders
Carlos GARCIA 13.08.70
Josu URRUTIA 10.04.68
JOSE MARI 10.02.71
Jon Andoni GOIKOETXEA 21.10.65
Julen GUERRERO 07.01.74
Bitor ALKIZA 26.10.70
Gaizka GARITANO 09.07.75
Domingo NAGORE 26.08.74
Jesus LACRUZ 25.04.78
Forwards
Joseba ETXEBERRIA 05.09.77
Ismael URZAIZ 07.10.71
Jose ZIGANDA 01.10.66
Joseba ARREGI 07.02.74
Javier GONZALEZ 22.03.74
Aitor HUEGUN 09.08.72
Coach Luis FERNANDEZ

ATLETICO MADRID

Goalkeepers
Jose MOLINA 08.08.70
RICARDO Lopez 31.12.71
Defenders
Defli GELI 22.04.69
SANTI 09.03.74
Daniel PRODAN (Rom) 23.03.72
TONI 04.02.68
Carlos AGUILERA 22.05.69
Juan LOPEZ 03.09.69
ANDREI Frascarelli (Bra) 21.02.73
Ivan ROCHA (Bra) 14.01.69
Midfielders
Jose Luis CAMINERO 08.11.67
Radek BEJBL (Cze) 29.08.72
Juan VIZCAINO 06.08.66
JUNINHO (Bra) 22.02.73
Milinko PANTIC (Yug) 05.06.66
Veljko PAUNOVIC (Yug) 21.08.77
ROBERTO 15.01.73
Santiago EZQUERRO 14.12.76
Forwards
JOSE MARI 10.12.78
KIKO 26.04.72
Jordi LARDIN 04.06.73
Christian VIERI (Ita) 12.07.73
Paulo FUTRE (Por) 28.02.66
Rade BOGDANOVIC (Bos) 21.05.70
Coach Radomir ANTIC

BARCELONA

Goalkeepers
Vitor BAIA (Por) 15.10.69
Rudolfus HESP (Hol) 31.10.65
Carlos BUSQUETS 19.07.67
Julen LOPETEGI 20.08.66
Defenders
Albert FERRER 06.06.70
ABELARDO Fernandez 19.03.70
SERGI Barjuan 28.12.71
Miguel Angel NADAL 28.07.66
Michael REIZIGER (Hol) 03.05.73
Fernando COUTO (Por) 02.08.69
MINGO 10.06.77
Midfielders
Guillermo AMOR 04.12.67
Josep GUARDIOLA 18.01.71
ROGER Garcia 15.12.76
Albert CELADES 29.09.75
Ivan DE LA PENA 06.05.76
LUIS ENRIQUE 08.05.70
Dragan CIRIC (Yug) 15.09.74
Jean JAVARY (Fra) 10.01.78
OSCAR Garcia 26.04.73
GIOVANNI (Bra) 04.02.72
Emmanuel AMUNIKE (Nig) 25.12.70
Forwards
ANDERSON Sonny da Silva (Bra) 19.09.70
Luis FIGO (Por) 04.11.72
Juan Antonio PIZZI (Arg) 07.06.68
Hristo STOICHKOV (Bul) 08.02.66
Christophe DUGARRY (Fra) 24.03.72
Coach Louis VAN GAAL

REAL BETIS

Goalkeepers
Antonio PRATS 09.09.71
Pedro JARO 22.02.63
Jose PINTO 08.11.75
Defenders
JAIME Quesada 21.09.71
Hristo VIDAKOVIC (Yug) 05.01.69
Roberto SOLOZABAL 15.09.69
Tomas OLIAS 04.02.69
Juan URENA 13.12.67
LUIS Fernandez 27.06.72
JOSETE 12.03.70
Jorge OTERO 28.01.69
Midfielders
ALEXIS Trujillo 30.07.65
Juan MERINO 24.08.70
Albert NADJ (Yug) 29.10.74
Robert JARNI (Cro) 26.10.68
Juan CANAS 17.04.72
Luis MARQUEZ 01.11.71
Nenad BJELICA (Cro) 20.08.71
FERNANDO Sanchez 12.09.71
Forwards
ALFONSO Perez 26.09.72
OLI 02.04.72
Angel CUELLAR 13.09.72
PIER 15.10.71
FINIDI George (Nig) 15.04.71
Wojciech KOWALCZYK (Pol) 04.04.72
IVAN 29.01.76
Coach LUIS Aragones

CELTA VIGO

Goalkeepers
Richard DUTRUEL (Fra) 24.12.72
Juan DIEZMA 22.09.68
Defenders
MICHEL 22.10.75
Francico SALINAS 17.11.63
Goran DJOROVIC (Yug) 11.11.71
ADRIANO Felix (Bra) 07.04.73
Rafael BERGES 21.01.71
Borja AGIRRETXU 25.06.68
Oscar VALES 13.09.74
JOSEMA 16.01.69
Andoni LAKABEG 14.02.69
Midfielders
MAZINHO (Bra) 08.04.66
Zoran DJOROVIC (Yug) 11.11.71
Daniel DUTUEL (Fra) 10.12.67
Alexander MOSTOVOI (Rus) 22.08.68
Milorad RATKOVIC (Yug) 16.10.64
ITO 21.01.75
Jose DEL SOLAR (Peru) 17.11.67
Valery KARPIN (Rus) 02.02.69
GELI 15.02.68
David BELENGUER 17.12.72
CARLOS Perez 01.11.71
Forwards
Juan SANCHEZ 15.05.72
Haim REVIVO (Isr) 22.02.72
Vlado GUDELJ (Bos) 22.11.66
Juan PRIETO 30.06.71
MOISES Garcia 10.07.71
Coach Javier IURETA

COMPOSTELA

Goalkeepers
RAFA 05.01.74
CARLOS Marino 05.09.70
Rene PONK (Hol) 21.10.71
Defenders
Javier BELLIDO 09.03.66
Francisco VILLENA 17.08.66
WILLIAM Amaral (Bra) 27.12.67
Goron SAULA (Yug) 01.09.70
Carlos SASTRE 03.08.68
NACHO 03.02.67
MAURO Garcia 21.05.71
Antonio CASTRO 06.06.72
Midfielders
JOSE RAMON 20.05.68
Juan VIEDMA (Hol) 27.10.74
Said CHIBA (Mor) 28.09.70
Frank PASSI (Fra) 28.03.66
FABIANO Soares (Bra) 10.06.66
Angel LEKUNBERRI 21.01.70
Francisco LLORENTE 21.05.65
Dimitri POPOV (Rus) 27.02.67
Forwards
Christopher OHEN (Nig) 14.10.70
MANUEL Alfredo 10.08.68
Bent CHRISTENSEN (Den) 04.01.67
Luboslav PENEV (Bul) 31.08.66
CHANGUI 10.04.77
Coach Fernando VASQUEZ

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

Goalkeepers
Jacques SONGO'O (Cam) 17.03.64
NUNO Herlander (Por) 25.01.74
Defenders
ARMANDO Alvarez 18.07.70
Noureddine NAYBET (Mor) 10.02.70
PACO 18.04.70
HELDER Marino (Ang) 21.03.71
NANDO 31.05.67
Jerome BONNISSEL (Fra) 16.04.73
ALFREDO Santaelena 13.10.67
Luis RAMIS 25.07.70
Midfielders
Corentine MARTINS (Fra) 11.07.69
DONATO 30.12.62
MAURO SILVA (Bra) 12.01.68
Flavio CONCEICAO (Bra) 12.06.74
FRAN 14.07.69
RIVALDO (Bra) 19.04.72
DJALMINHA (Bra) 09.12.70
Forwards
Javier MANJARIN 31.12.69
Mickael MADAR (Fra) 08.05.68
LUIZAO (Bra) 01.11.75
MAIKEL Hermann 18.03.76
Jose DEUS 12.01.77
Dimitri RADTCHENKO (Rus) 01.12.70
Salahedine BASSIR (Mor) 05.09.72
Coach Carlos Alberto SILVA

ESPANYOL

Goalkeepers
Toni 12.10.70
RAUL Arribas 11.09.68
Alfredo ARGENSO 04.11.74
Defenders
CRISTOBAL 21.08.67
Mauricio POCHETTINO (Arg) 02.03.72
NANDO 30.10.67
Victor TORRES MESTRE 31.12.70
Jose COBOS (Fra) 23.04.68
Midfielders
Constantin GALCA (Rom) 08.03.72
LUIS Cembranos (Swi) 06.06.72
Dominique LEMOINE (Bel) 12.03.66
Branko BRNOVIC (Yug) 08.08.67
Goran BOGDANOVIC (Yug) 27.04.67
PACHETA 23.03.68
ARTEAGA 01.09.69
Nenad PRALLJA (Cro) 11.12.70
FRANCISCO Lopez 01.11.62
Adolfo ALDANA 05.01.66
Alex FERNANDEZ 14.02.74
Forwards
Juan ESNAIDER (Arg) 05.03.73
Nicolas OUEDEC (Fra) 28.10.71
Raul TAMUDO 19.10.77
Diego RIBERA 19.02.77
Miguel Angel BENITEZ (Par) 19.05.70
Enrique MARTIN 29.12.72
JAVI 01.10.69
Coach Jose CAMACHO

MALLORCA

Goalkeepers
KIKE 20.01.71
XABIER Mancisidor 24.05.70
Defenders
Xabier OLAIZOLA 28.11.69
DAVID Castedo 23.01.74
MARCELINO Elena 26.09.71
Lluis CARRERAS 24.09.72
Juan BARBERO 09.05.68
Ivan CAMPO 21.02.74
Enrique ROMERO 23.06.71
Midfielders
Juan VALERON 17.06.75
Francisco SANZ 29.11.72
Francisco SOLER 05.03.70
Jovan STANKOVIC (Yug) 04.03.71
Vicente ENGONGA 20.10.65
Francisco COPADO (Ger) 19.07.74
Emmanuel DUAH (Gha) 14.11.76
Xabier ESKURZA 17.01.70
PALHINHA (Bra) 14.12.67
Forwards
Gabriel MOYA 30.03.66
Goron STOJILKOVIC (Yug) 14.12.70
MONCHU 28.11.68
Jose GALVEZ 03.08.74
Gabriel AMATO (Arg) 22.10.70
Gabriel VIDAL 05.10.69
Coach Hector Raul CUPER

MERIDA

Goalkeepers
Joaquin VALERIO 12.01.73
Carlos NAVARRO MONTOYA 26.02.66
Defenders
MARIANO Hoyas 19.09.70
MENDIONDO 25.06.66
Manuel MOMPARLET 18.11.66
Jose CORTES 27.07.69
Ramon DE QUINTANA 06.02.72
Jose SIERRA 07.12.65
Antonio MONREAL 04.04.69
Midfielders
MARCOS Martin 17.09.68
Francisco RUANO 16.07.74
Jose SINVAL (Bra) 06.04.67
JAIME Ramon 15.03.69
PIRRI I 12.02.74
PIRRI II 10.11.70
Carlos CORREA (Uru) 13.01.68
Forwards
Leonardo BIAGINI (Arg) 13.04.77
Jerzy PODBROZNY (Pol) 17.11.66
David AVILA 21.03.78
Juan SABAS 13.04.67
Ivan GABRICH (Arg) 28.08.72
RAMON Pereira 12.09.78
Coach Roberto D'ALESSANDRO

REAL OVIEDO

Goalkeepers
Juan MORA 12.07.73
Jose BULJUBASICH (Arg) 12.05.71
Carlos CANO 17.12.69
ESTEBAN Andres 27.06.75
Defenders
Fernando GAMBOA (Arg) 28.10.70
MANEL 07.01.71
BERTO 27.10.62
Antonio RIVAS 13.09.65
ABEL XAVIER (Por) 30.11.72
Mirko STOJKOVSKI (Mac) 18.12.72
CESAR Martin 02.04.77
Midfielders
Viktor ONOPKO (Ukr) 11.10.69
IVAN Iglesias 16.12.71
PAULO BENTO (Por) 20.06.69
Juan Jose BORRELLI (Arg) 08.11.70
Petr DUBOVSKY (Slvk) 07.05.72
Ivan ANIA 24.10.77
Jose GAY 10.12.65
Roberto SUAREZ 07.04.74
JAIME Fernandez 02.02.77
Forwards
Thomas CHRISTIANSEN (Den) 11.03.73
Roberto LOSADA 25.10.76
Julio DELY VALDES (Pan) 12.03.67
Juan GONZALEZ (Uru) 27.05.72
Coach Oscar Washington TABAREZ

RACING SANTANDER

Goalkeepers
Jose CEBALLOS 07.09.69
Fernando MARCOS 04.12.68
Rafael MARQUEZ 16.08.72
Defenders
INAKI 06.10.74
Washington TAIS (Uru) 21.12.72
DIEGO LOPEZ (Uru) 22.08.74
Gabriel SCHURRER (Arg) 16.08.71
Jesus MERINO 07.12.67
Francisco LOPEZ 28.04.73
TXEMA 29.04.71
MORA 04.04.77
SIETES 18.02.74
SANCHEZ JARA 19.09.69
Jose GUERRERO 23.08.75
Midfielders
Nelson ABEJON (Uru) 21.07.73
David BILLABONA 05.12.69
Oscar ARPON 09.04.75
Fernando MORAN 27.04.76
Hugo PORFIRIO (Por) 28.09.73
ISMAEL Ruiz 02.07.77
Ignacio CONTE 21.02.69
Forwards
Vladimir BESTCHASTNICH (Rus) 01.04.74
Fernando CORREA (Uru) 06.01.74
ALBERTO Lopez 25.02.67
Gontzal SUANCES 03.08.72
Coach Marcos Alonso PENA

REAL MADRID

Goalkeepers
Bodo ILLGNER (Ger) 07.04.67
Jose CANIZARES 18.02.69
Pedro CONTRERAS 07.01.72
Defenders
Christian PANUCCI (Ita) 12.04.73
CHENDO 12.10.61
Fernando HIERRO 23.03.68
GARCIA CALVO 01.04.75
Fernando SANZ 01.01.74
ROBERTO CARLOS (Bra) 10.04.73
Carlos SECRETARIO (Por) 12.05.70
Manuel SANCHIS 23.05.65
Midfielders
VICTOR 23.02.76
Clarence SEEDORF (Hol) 01.04.76
Fernando REDONDO (Arg) 06.07.69
JAIME Sanchez 20.03.73
ZE ROBERTO (Bra) 06.07.74
Jose AMAVISCA 19.06.71
Manuel CANABAL 10.11.74
GUTI 31.10.76
ALVARO Benito 10.12.76
Dejan PETKOVIC (Yug) 10.09.72
Forwards
DANI 22.12.74
RAUL Gonzalez 27.06.77
Predrag MIJATOVIC (Yug) 19.01.69
Davor SUKER (Cro) 01.01.68
Fernando MORIENTES 05.04.76
Coach Jupp HEYNKES

REAL SOCIEDAD

Goalkeepers
ALBERTO Lopez 20.05.69
Roberto OLABE 20.10.67
Raul IGLESIAS 21.11.74
Defenders
Miguel FUENTES 06.08.64
LOREN 07.10.66
Jose PIKABEA 26.09.70
Agustin ARANZABAL 15.03.73
IMANOL Alguacil 04.07.71
Iker SARRIEGI 16.08.73
LOPEZ REKARTE 18.08.75
Midfielders
Alberto ALBISTEGI 24.09.64
Juan GOMEZ (Arg) 25.01.72
Hakan MILD (Swe) 14.06.71
Dietmar KUHBAUER (Aut 04.04.71
Andoni IMAZ 05.09.71
Javier GRACIA 01.05.70
Francisco DE PEDRO 04.08.73
Inigo IDIAKEZ 08.11.73
MUTIU Adepoju (Nig) 22.12.70
Mikel ARANBURU 18.02.79
Forwards
Oscar DE PAULO 31.05.75
Luis PEREZ 09.02.71
Gheorghe CRAIOVEANU (Rom) 14.02.68
Darko KOVACEVIC (Yug) 18.11.73
Ricardo SA PINTO (Por) 10.10.72
Aitor ALDEONDO 25.01.75
Coach Bernd KRAUSS

SALAMANCA

Goalkeepers
Bogdan STELEA (Rom) 05.12.67
Jose AIZPURUA 05.05.70
Defenders
Luciano ITURRINO 04.11.63
LOREN 12.02.70
LUIS MANUEL 29.03.67
PAULO TORRES (Por) 25.11.71
SITO 06.11.65
Marco LANNA (Ita) 13.07.68
Sergio CORINO 10.10.74
Dubravko PAVLICIC (Cro) 28.11.67
Axel SMEETS (Bel) 12.04.74
Midfielders
Jose TAIRA (Por) 18.11.68
Everton GIOVANELLI (Bra) 13.09.70
Martin VELLISCA 25.04.67
Joan BARBARA 23.07.66
Pablo ZEGARRA (Per) 01.04.73
TULIPA (Por) 06.10.72
Eduardo ALONSO 30.05.74
ROGERIO Paulo (Por) 01.03.76
Angel MEDINA 06.04.67
Cesar VILLAFANE 04.01.74
Forwards
PAULETA (Por) 28.04.73
CESAR BRITO (Por) 21.10.64
Ronnen HARADZI (Isr) 30.03.70
CATANHA (Bra) 06.03.72
Coach Andoni GOIKOETXEA

SPORTING

Goalkeepers
Juan ABLANEDO 02.09.63
Francisco LIANO 16.11.64
JUANJO 09.10.73
RAMON Ruiz 15.05.73
Defenders
Francisco VILLARROYA 06.08.66
Yuri NIKIFOROV (Rus) 16.09.70
SERGIO Fernandez 23.05.77
PABLO Jose (Arg) 05.08.71
Jesus VELASCO 16.01.72
Ruben ACEBAL 25.03.75
URBANO Santos 05.02.75
Midfielders
Ricardo BANGO 18.09.68
TOMAS Alberto 25.11.70
DAVID CANO 09.10.74
JOSE MANUEL 29.11.73
AVELINO Riopedre 11.11.71
MARIO Gutierrez 16.02.75
FREDI 07.05.74
Igor LEDIAKHOV (Rus) 22.05.68
ALEX 24.05.74
AITOR Tornavaca 24.03.76
Forwards
LUNA 23.09.71
Dimitri CHERISHEV (Rus) 11.05.69
Ronald GOMEZ (CR) 24.01.75
Ruben BLAYA 06.04.76
KAIKU 17.02.72
Cezary KUCHARSKI (Pol) 17.02.72
Coach Miguel Angel MONTES

TENERIFE

Goalkeepers
Marcelo OJEDA (Arg) 08.12.68
Bengt ANDERSSON (Swe) 11.08.66
Defenders
Ferdinand VIERKLAU (Hol) 01.04.79
Julio LLORENTE 14.06.66
Antonio MATA 28.08.65
Pablo PAZ (Arg) 27.01.73
Sergio BALLESTEROS 04.09.75
ALEXIS Suarez 06.03.74
Sizwe MOTAUNG (SA) 07.01.70
Midfielders
DANI 08.07.72
Pavel HAPAL (Cze) 27.07.69
CHANO 28.02.65
Slavisa JOKANOVIC (Yug) 16.08.68
FELIPE Minambres 29.04.65
VIVAR DORADO 12.02.74
Antonio ROBAINA 30.01.74
Samuel SLOVAK (Slvk) 17.10.75
Forwards
DOMINGOS (Por) 02.01.69
JUANELE 10.04.71
Antonio PINILLA 25.02.71
Oliver NEUVILLE (Swi) 01.05.73
Meho KODRO (Bos) 12.01.67
Aurelio VIDMAR (Aus) 03.02.67
Roy MAKAAY (Hol) 03.03.75
Coach Victor FERNANDEZ

VALENCIA

Goalkeepers
Andoni ZUBIZARRETA 23.10.61
Jorge BARTUAL 18.08.71
Defenders
Gaizka MENDIETA 27.03.74
Fernando CACERES (Arg) 07.02.69
Miroslav DJUKIC (Yug) 19.02.66
Franciso CAMARASA 27.09.67
Jocelyn ANGLOMA (Fra) 07.08.65
Francisco NAVARRO 06.02.74
JUANFRAN 15.07.76
Midfielders
Francisco FARINOS 29.03.78
Moussa SAIB (Fra) 05.03.69
Luis MILLA 12.03.66
David ALBELDA 01.09.77
FERNANDO Gomez 11.09.65
MARCELINHO CARIOCA (Bra) 01.02.71
GERARD Lopez 12.03.77
Antonio POYATOS 10.02.66
JOSE IGNACIO 28.09.73
Guillermo MORIGI 01.03.74
Forwards
Miguel ANGULO 23.06.77
Ariel ORTEGA (Arg) 04.03.74
Claudio LOPEZ (Arg) 17.07.74
ROMARIO de Souza (Bra) 29.01.66
Goran VLAOVIC (Cro) 07.08.72
Coach Jorge VALDANO

REAL VALLADOLID

Goalkeepers
CESAR Sanchez 02.09.71
Agustin ELDUAYEN 04.08.64
IVAN Alonso 15.09.74
Defenders
TORRES GOMEZ 09.01.70
JULIO CESAR (Bra) 17.08.78
Mikel ANTIA 13.02.73
Jose SANTAMARIA 14.01.73
JUAN CARLOS 1 19.01.65
Juan PENA (Bol) 17.01.73
David GOMEZ 04.04.74
Alberto MARCOS 15.02.74
Midfielders
Alvaro GUTIERREZ (Uru) 21.07.68
John LOZANO (Col) 30.03.73
BENJAMIN Zarandona 02.03.76
EDU (Bra) 02.02.67
Felix HERNANDEZ (Ven) 18.04.72
Jose QUEVEDO 01.09.69
Jesus TURIEL 06.10.73
EUSEBIO Sacristan 13.04.64
CHEMA 09.05.76
Forwards
VICTOR Manuel 17.04.74
Alen PETERNAC (Cro) 16.01.72
Jose SOTO 04.08.72
JUAN CARLOS II 05.04.73
RAUL Ibanez 10.11.72
Coach Vicente CANATORE

REAL ZARAGOZA

Goalkeepers
Otto KONRAD (Aut) 01.01.64
JUANMI 09.03.71
Jose BELMAN 16.06.71
Cesar LAINEZ 10.04.77
Defenders
Alberto BELSUE 02.03.68
Xavier AGUADO 05.06.68
GILMAR (Bra) 23.04.71
Luis CUARTERO 17.08.75
Jesus SOLANA 25.12.64
Gary SUNDGREN (Swe) 25.10.67
Miguel SOLAR 13.03.65
Francisco SUAREZ 31.01.76
Midfielders
Santiago ARAGON 03.04.68
Vladislav RADIMOV (Rus) 26.11.75
GARCIA SANJUAN 22.08.71
Nordin WOOTER (Hol) 24.08.76
Ander GARITANO 26.02.69
KILI GONZALEZ (Arg) 04.08.74
RAFITA 02.03.75
TORRES 01.05.74
Forwards
Marcos VALES 05.04.75
Gustavo LOPEZ (Arg) 13.04.73
YORDI 14.09.74
Jesus SEBA 11.04.74
Javier PENA 23.09.77
Coach Luis COSTA

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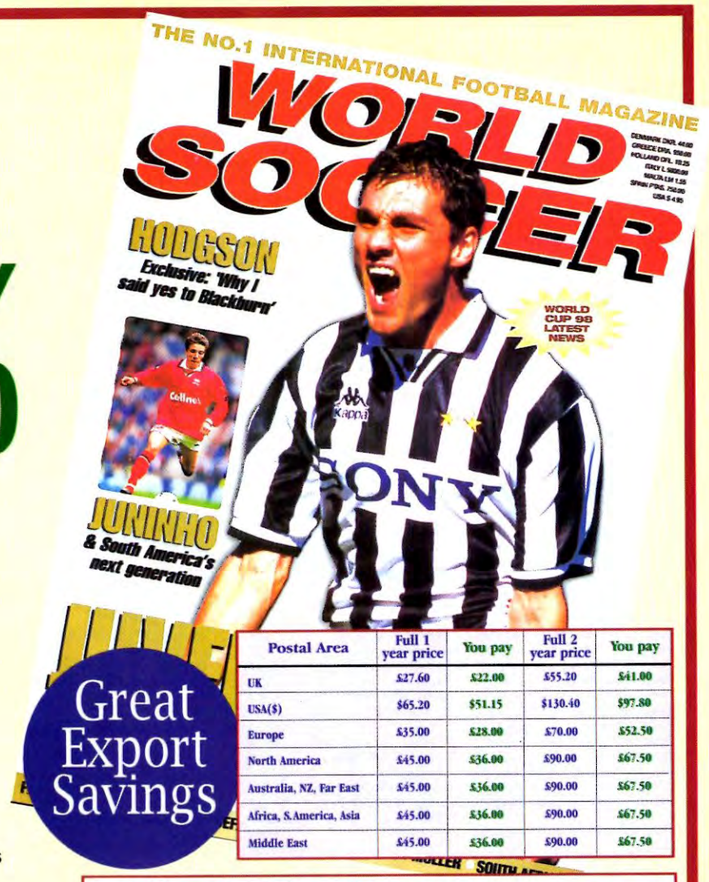

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Your chance to join the newly launched FA Coaches Association

FOR FA Technical Director Howard Wilkinson the launch of the FA Coaches Association is the first step in the implementation of his 'Charter for Quality' and an important chance to raise the profile of coaching in the UK. "Our goal is a better educated, informed and knowledgable pool of football coaches," he says.

The objectives of the new organisation are:

- to establish and maintain high ethical standards in coaching.
- to satisfy the desire for in-service training and continuing professional development (CPD) for those who have attended FA courses.
- to communicate with and develop communication among coaches.
- to improve and enhance the role of the 'coach' and the process of 'coaching'.
- to develop a register of qualified, disciplined and screened coaches.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- An initial joining pack.
- Four issues of the FA Coaches Association journal *Insight*.
- Regional activities (UK members).
- Insurance protection (UK members).
- Exclusive education and training opportunities.
- CPD record.
- Coaching merchandise.
- Internet service.
- European Union of Football Coaches.

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UK individual (if paid by direct debit) £29.50.
UK and overseas institutional £29.50.
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The way ahead

Howard Wilkinson talks to Kevin Palmer about how youth development can be improved

THERE is a firmly-held belief that the country which gave the game to the world has fallen behind those which were once its pupils. But under the guidance of the English FA's Technical Director, Howard Wilkinson, that may be about to change.

The English game's governing body have accepted that the youth development programmes at home need to be reviewed and modernised. That is a step in the right direction, and in looking for pointers from others by travelling the globe over the past 18 months, they are aiming to combine the game's finest youth development programmes and construct an English model.

With the English Premiership packed with imported talent, Wilkinson appreciates that his job of safeguarding the English stars of the future is crucial. "We are sitting on the equivalent of North Sea oil and importing coal," he says. "We are not making the best of the young talent we have in this country and we need to address the issue. We have been irresponsible in letting youth development in our game drop in standard. And it is not as if we do not have the interest from the youth in England. Far from it. Compared to France or Holland, we have far more kids per head of population playing the game."

The FA's report chronicles the success of youth programmes at clubs such as Barcelona, Internazionale and Sao Paulo in Brazil. From the financial backing they pump into each of their youth programmes to the numbers of full-time staff and education provided for youngsters, the FA feels it has a guide to where they can improve on their own turf.

The report follows visits by FA staff to Barcelona, Amsterdam, Parma, Milan, Sao Paulo and Norway. They studied the resources committed by the clubs to youth policies, and all aspects of their coaching philosophies.

The FA discovered, among other things, that in Holland, Italy, Spain and Norway all competitive matches involving under-12s are seven-a-side; all the clubs visited spent at least £1million a year on their policies; Barcelona employ a full-time youth director, medical staff and 12 coaches, while Sao Paulo's youth section have 12 physiotherapists, five doctors and two nurses at their disposal; and Ajax use 20 minibuses to transport their charges to and from the club every day.

"It should be no surprise to people that other countries seem to have more skill than us," says Wilkinson. "They set aside a lot more time for practice than us, time to work with the ball. Our game is very much based around full-scale games and results.

"Other nations are investing more finance in their youth programmes. We have a similar climate to many of the countries we visited yet they have a far better rate of producing top-quality young players than us. That shows we are doing something wrong. The model in this country has to be Manchester United and maybe Liverpool. They are two of our biggest clubs and have managed to devote the time and money that is required. The results are there for all to see."

The proposal that will go before the FA Council on November 10 will advocate a complete restructuring of the youth game in England, with Schools of Excellence to be set up at the top clubs around the country and more time for coaches with the youngsters to hone their skills. The emphasis will not be merely on the need to win games. Wilkinson's 'Charter for Quality' is set to change the face of football at grassroots level.

"The quality of coaches in this country is as good as anywhere in the world, but they are just not given enough time to work with the players," adds Wilkinson. "We are advocating that professional clubs set up Centres of Excellence for the best young talent in the area. The FA will give them a world-class support service and ensure they can spend time with the kids.

"The professional game is taking a lead in so much as they want better access to the kids because they know they will have them until at least the age of 24 under the Bosman ruling.

Facing the future...the FA recognise that youth coaching needs more resources

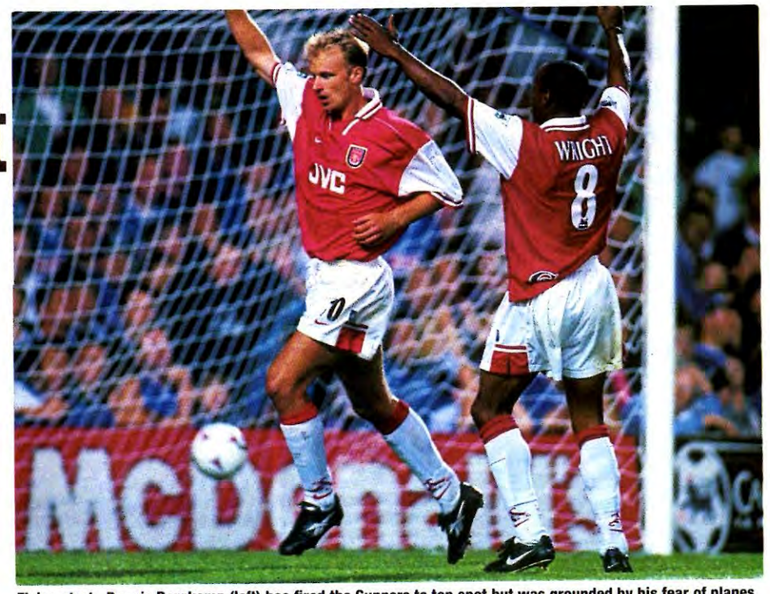
"We are advocating that if they are enrolled in a School of Excellence recognised by the FA, they will not be under pressure to play schools football. This way, they can learn the game properly as well as receive a top-class education at the same time, which is vital.

"We are looking to produce rounded individuals as well as quality footballers. All too often, our best players have been shown to be anything other than rounded individuals and that may be because they have got away with too much in their youth. In the past, we have merely educated his feet when he shows the slightest bit of talent and that is wrong."

THE CHARTER FOR QUALITY

- Learn from the examples around the world
- Establish Centres of Excellence at professional clubs across the country
- Give coaches more time with the youngsters
- Ensure education is provided hand in hand with coaching
- The long-term target is to produce rounded individuals and England stars of the future.

Top guns sweep out the sleaze



Flying start...Dennis Bergkamp (left) has fired the Gunners to top spot but was grounded by his fear of planes

THERE WAS more than a hint of irony in the timing of the FA's long-awaited report on the 'bung' inquiry. Within days of its publication, Arsenal, whose former manager George Graham has been the only person so far punished over financial misdemeanours in the transfer market, moved top of the Premier League.

Victories over Chelsea, courtesy of a last-minute winner from defender Nigel Winterburn, and West Ham continued the Gunners' unbeaten start to the season.

Games against Manchester United and Liverpool in November, and Newcastle and Blackburn in December, will test the mettle of Arsenal's title challenge. But the signs are that French coach Arsene Wenger has all the components in place to mount a serious bid.

He has instigated a revolution at Highbury since his arrival from Japan a year ago, when he found a club in turmoil. He was their fourth manager in as many months and captain Tony Adams had followed Paul Merson's lead by owning up to his alcoholism.

Wenger brought in new faces from the Continent but kept faith with many of the old guard who had thought their Highbury days were numbered. In fact, Arsenal's back four remains the tried and trusted Dixon-Adams-Winterburn-Bould combination which formed the backbone of the side under George Graham.

However, Wenger is all too aware his defence has seen better days and his summer signings reflect this. Frenchmen Emmanual Petit and Gilles Grimandi have arrived from the coach's former club Monaco, while teenager Matthew Upson has joined from Luton.

Dutchman Marc Overmars has been the most notable arrival and is rediscovering the form which won him a Champions Cup medal with Ajax in 1995 before he was sidelined for almost a year with knee ligament damage.

If the Dutch winger's contribution to the cause has been impressive, that of his countryman Dennis Bergkamp has been critical to Arsenal's success. Many of Bergkamp's performances have been sublime and eclipsed those of his strike partner Ian Wright.

For weeks, Wright strove to beat Cliff Bastin's club scoring record. He eventually bagged a hat-trick against Bolton to claim an impressive achievement, but one which did not merit the thousands of column inches it commanded. Wright escaped an FA ban for joining in a post-match fracas at Leicester, but Bergkamp is already just one booking away from a two-match ban.

Bergkamp's importance to Arsenal was underlined when they travelled to Greece for their UEFA Cup first round tie with PAOK Salonika. He stayed in London, unable to overcome his fear of flying, and Arsenal lost.

Newcastle's first foray into the Champions League proved a personal triumph for Faustino Asprilla, who netted a hat-trick in the 3-2 defeat of Barcelona.

The Colombian, castigated as the man who lost Newcastle the 1995-96 title and seen as the most likely candidate for the departure lounge last summer, is revelling in his role as a lone striker. It seems the Geordies have found the ideal replacement for injured Alan Shearer, who is still likely to miss most of this season.

The victory over Barcelona was a momentous one for boss Kenny Dalglish, as it established his Champions League credentials after his failure with Blackburn. For Barcelona's Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal, so dismissive of English footballing standards beforehand, there were large slices of humble pie to be consumed. And Newcastle's owner Sir John Hall – who just days earlier announced his retirement from the helm of the club he bought when they languished at the foot of the old Second Division almost six years ago – saw them overcome the club which had been the role model for his self-styled 'Geordie Nation'.

Manchester United were comfortable 3-0 winners in Kosice, but some horrendous misses in front of goal by Andy Cole underlined their need for a top-class finisher.

Plucky Leicester lost 2-1 at big-spending Atletico Madrid, to highlight the progress they have made under manager Martin O'Neill, while a late wonder goal by Steve McManaman earned Liverpool a 2-2 draw in the first leg of the all-British UEFA Cup clash at Celtic.

Liverpool look irresistible up front. Teenager Michael Owen has been terrorising defences with a combination of pace and instinctive finishing which suggests he, not Robbie Fowler, may be the successor to Ian Rush.

Finally, spare a thought for two strugglers. David Pleat's position at Sheffield Wednesday is under threat after a serious of inept defensive displays, while Southampton's signings of Carlton Palmer and Kevin Richardson smack of panic buys.

It's going to be a long, hard season.

Gavin Hamilton

The Messiah returns

WHEN Kevin Keegan stunned Tyneside with his resignation as Newcastle manager eight months ago, he declared he had no intention of returning to football.

The man Geordies regarded as the Messiah wanted to spend more time on business interests and on the golf course. There was absolutely no chance of him returning in a managerial role, he said.

But like so many before him, the drug has proved too strong. Keegan is back, and he has clearly not lost his appetite for the unexpected. Yes, Keegan is back... at Second Division Fulham.

In one of the strangest moves of recent times, he has accepted the role of chief operating officer, swayed by the financial pulling power of Mohamed Al Fayed, the club's multi-millionaire owner.

Fayed, more famous as the owner of Harrods and father of Dodi – killed in the Paris car crash which also claimed the life of Diana, Princess of Wales – bought Fulham in the summer and pledged £30million to make the club "the Manchester United of the South".

Indeed, Fayed has given Keegan £10million to meet immediate spending plans, but it is Ray Wilkins, his former England playing colleague who has been installed as team manager.

"I've known Ray since he had hair," quipped Keegan, before explaining why he had gone to Craven Cottage.

"I love football. I might have to convince a few cynics but I don't have to convince anybody who's in touch with me that I've still got that love of football.

"Nobody's twisted my arm, nobody's made me an offer I couldn't refuse. It just excites me – and that's the key to Kevin Keegan. People who know me won't be surprised to see me here. It's a challenge – I've never been scared of a challenge."

It is certainly that. Fayed dreams of building a 42,000 all-seater home for a team playing Premier League football.

Hold on tight, Kevin.

Second coming...Keegan is back

Scotland

Jansen's men come out of the shade

CELTIC, who have existed for so long in the shadow of big-spending rivals Rangers, are finally beginning to show signs that they have the resources to mount a meaningful challenge.

Despite losing Pierre Van Hooijdonk, Jorge Cadete and Paolo Di Canio after contractual rows, and the absence of Darren Jackson with a neurological illness, signings such as Henrik Larsson, Craig Burley and Marc Rieper are helping the team to produce consistent displays.

Renewed optimism is based on coach Wim Jansen's acquisitions (Larsson in particular) and the more familiar faces of Simon Donnelly and Andreas Thom.

Donnelly has matured from a fresh-faced, lightweight youngster into a battle-hardened campaigner with nerve and temperament to match his abilities. He confidently struck home a penalty in the first leg of the UEFA Cup tie against Liverpool and his pairing with Larsson looks like developing into the club's most potent strike force for several seasons.

Thom has now established himself with the Celtic fans, many of who had doubted his commitment. "It's starting to gel now and we're really playing as a team," is the German's succinct appraisal of a situation he views as vastly superior to any other he has experienced in his time at the club.

Much will depend, however, on the outcome of two clashes with Rangers in November. The first scheduled Old Firm meeting of the season was postponed after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, setting up an intriguing double-header which should be a good pointer as to the ultimate direction of the title.

Rangers are collecting points without displaying anything more than the most basic levels of flair and invention. Their untimely exit from the Champions League appears to have demoralised some of the foreign imports – an opinion expressed by midfielder Stuart McCall.

Problems are apparent in defence, where manager Walter Smith is without long-term injury victims Alan McLaren and Lorenzo Amoruso, the latter having yet to make an appearance since joining the club. Suggestions are rife that Smith will succeed in luring former captain Richard Gough back from Major League Soccer in the USA.

Edinburgh football is experiencing a resurgence, with Hearts and Hibs having enjoyed early-season spells at the top of the Premier Division. Sadly, both clubs appear to have viewed their periods of ascendancy as temporary, acknowledging rather meekly it would only be a matter of time before they were overhauled by one of the Glasgow giants.

Such in-built deference to the powers within the game merely underlines the fact the current duopoly is destined to prevail.

Alan Fairley

N.Ireland

Spiers hits bull's-eye in final showdown

LINFIELD manager David Jeffries won his first trophy since his appointment last January when the Blues defeated Belfast rivals Glentoran 1-0 in the League Cup Final at Windsor Park.

In a typically bruising derby, Jeff Spiers struck the only goal on the stroke of half-time.

Neither champions Crusaders nor last season's early pacesetters Coleraine has found form in the League. Coleraine have failed to score on several occasions while Crusaders, whose game is traditionally built around a strong defence, have been conceding too many goals for the liking of manager Roy Walker.

At the bottom, hard-up Ards are in danger of finding themselves adrift even at this early stage, though a 'takeover' of the board by local businessmen may lead to a cash injection for manager Roy Coyle – who could lose teenage striker Lee Feeney soon – to strengthen his squad.

Northern Ireland's international image was severely dented when they were beaten by Albania, more convincingly than the 1-0 scoreline suggests, in their penultimate World Cup qualifier. The match was moved to Zurich by FIFA because of the civil unrest in Albania, but that only added to the indignity.

Though the Irish were deprived of some players by injury and suspension, it looked as if several team members who should have set an example to younger ones were going through the motions.

If only they had followed the example of goalkeeper Tommy Wright, who gave an outstanding performance to prevent a scoreline of embarrassing proportions.

Roy Kitson

Wales

Williams steps into Bird's scoring boots

SELLING their leading striker Tony Bird has not stopped reigning champions Barry Town from going top of the League.

Bird and Dave O'Gorman went to Swansea City for £50,000 and Town used some of that to snap up Eifion Williams for a League record £25,000. Williams, runner-up to Bird in last season's scoring charts, proved good value with 12 goals in seven outings after his move from Caernarfon.

Bangor City, led by former Everton striker Graeme Sharp, started with full points from their first six games to lie third, with Ebbw Vale in second. Vale netted 16 points in their first seven games – all away, due to groundshare arrangements with summer sports.

Total Network Solutions, formerly Llansantffraid, set a League record by drawing their first six matches, then lost 10-0 to Barry – another League record.

Mel Ap Ior Thomas

Pro-file Eyal Berkovic

Israeli with a leading role for Eastenders

Club West Ham United
Country Israel
Born April 2, 1972, in Haifa, Israel
Previous clubs Maccabi Haifa (Isr), Southampton
Honours Israeli League 1994, Israeli Cup 1995
International caps 42 (four

THERE WERE high hopes in East London this time last year that West Ham United's high-profile international acquisitions, including Paulo Futre, Ilie Dumitrescu and Florin Raducioiu, would turn the tables and enable the club to avoid the perennial battle to avoid relegation.

That scenario never worked out. The Hammers were forced to battle against the drop for most of the season, with the majority of the big names having waved goodbye to Upton Park long before the campaign's climax, when survival in the Premiership was narrowly secured.

A welcome note of caution has now appeared in manager Harry Redknapp's negotiation of the international transfer market, but there already seems little doubt he has stumbled on a gem in the shape of Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovic.

He is a diminutive playmaker who also includes scoring in his repertoire, as 25 goals in 128 appearances for his hometown club, Maccabi Haifa, indicate. His abilities came to the attention of Southampton, who enticed him to the South Coast, and he rapidly rose to prominence with a mesmerising display in their 6-3 humiliation of Manchester United last season, which included two spectacular goals of his own.

Naturally, the Saints were keen to keep him, but when it emerged over the summer no permanent deal had been signed, West Ham and Spurs joined the bidding, giving Berkovic the luxury of three Premiership clubs to choose from.

"I thought that if I stayed at Southampton I was more likely to be fighting against relegation again this season," he says.

"I spoke to Harry Redknapp and to Gerry Francis at Spurs, but I had a feeling West Ham were the team for me. Mr Redknapp told me that he wanted me to be the playmaker, as I am for the national team.

"It is a very good club, and I think that if we continue to play as well as we have so far – even in games that we have lost against Manchester United and Newcastle – then we can have a very good season."

Berkovic exploits his free role behind the strikers to maximum effect, and has an innate sense of when to make runs which frequently leave defenders bemused.

Upton Park has seen plenty of great midfielders in claret and blue, but the supporters are being won over by the new arrival's infectious enthusiasm and willingness to take the attack to the opposition.

Berkovic is hoping that a good season in the Premiership will help make up for Israel's failure to qualify for France 98.

"It is very disappointing, but we had a very hard group, and you would expect Bulgaria and Russia to be the top teams. We are a very small country, and it was not likely we would make it this time.

"I hope that if we have an easier group we can qualify for the next one. If more players come to Europe, where football is much more competitive, then I think we will stand a better chance."

Dominique Baldy

HOLLAND

Stam tops the poll

JAAP STAM, who scored the first goal when Holland met Belgium in September, could not have timed it better. The goal put the Dutch on the way to a 3-1 win over their neighbours, making them 99.99 per cent certain to qualify for the World Cup, and led to a rush of votes for PSV defender in the Player of the Year poll, which he duly topped.

Stam's success was something of a surprise, for only two years ago he was playing for Cambuur Leewarden in the Second Division. He then moved to Willem II Tilburg, and had only half a season there before going to PSV. Stam got into the national team after the disappointment of Euro 96, and now, at 25, he looks to be a regular fixture.

His club colleague, German goalkeeper Georg Koch, is not so happy. Koch, bought from Fortuna Dusseldorf, claims that people in Holland are discriminating against him, and says his family are homesick.

Coach Dick Advocaat relegated him to the bench because of his lost form, and although Koch claims that he has been promised a return once his problems are over, Advocaat denies making that pledge.

First choice...PSV's Jaap Stam

Ajax led the League table, remaining undefeated after the first six games. Feyenoord (four points behind) and PSV (six) are already losing ground.

But Ajax underestimated Branik Maribor in the UEFA Cup, and were lucky to draw the first leg. In the same competition FC Twente lost to Lillestrom, and Vitesse Arnhem faced a difficult return in Portugal after conceding a late goal in their 2-1 win over Sporting Braga, who scored from a last-minute penalty after a hold-up because of a floodlight failure.

Both Champions League representatives were humiliated, Feyenoord losing 5-1 away to Juventus and PSV flopping 3-1 at home to Kiev Dinamo. Cup-winners Roda provided some consolation with a 4-1 away win over Hapoel Beer Sheva.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

SWEDEN

Time to go for Tommy

NATIONAL coach Tommy Svensson looks certain to end his seven years in charge after Sweden's final World Cup qualifier, against Estonia.

Even a win will probably not be good enough for the Swedes to secure second place, since few believe that Latvia can beat Scotland.

In recent matches Sweden have failed to live up to their image as a powerhouse side capable of turning on the scoring power. They have been let down by their finishing once too often.

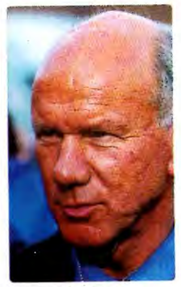
Svensson, however, has secured a place in Swedish footballing history. Finishing third in the 1994 World Cup is the country's greatest achievement in modern football and was due in no small part to the coach's cool-headed direction and careful planning.

Skipper Jonas Thern has also announced his international retirement, and other old faithfuls such as Thomas Ravelli and Roland Nilsson could find their national team days are over.

Even the future of goalgetters Martin Dahlin and Kennet Andersson is being questioned, while hardly anybody expects Tomas Brolin to reach the heights again.

Anderlecht's Par Zetterberg has been by far the best Swedish player this year and the new national team is likely to be dominated by him and defender Patrik Andersson, star of Monchengladbach.

New hopes for the future include Anders Andersson (Blackburn), Niclas Alexandersson (Gothenburg) and Yksel Osmanovski (Malmo), who has been likened to Anders Limpar.



Tommy Svensson

Jesper Blomqvist and Andreas Andersson are two talented forwards who still have to convince their coach at Milan, Fabio Capello.

Swedes would love to see either Sven-Goran Eriksson or Roy Hodgson at the helm of the national team. Both were candidates in 1990, when Svensson was appointed.

Pentti Hietanen

BELGIUM

Displaced Royals on the slide

FOUR years ago, Royal Antwerp were enjoying the attention and plaudits that came with reaching the Final of the European Cup-winners Cup at Wembley. Now they hog the headlines for very different reasons.

The team, hardly of earth-shattering proportions, were never going to challenge for this season's honours, but were good enough to retain First Division status last term without undue problems. Now even that conservative ambition is in doubt, although it is hardly the fault of the players that they found themselves propping up the table without a point. They had yet to play a single game at home in the Stade Bosuil.

Two fixtures, against Anderlecht and Club Brugge, were postponed, and one with Lommel was switched to their opponents' ground while arguments raged as to what should be done about the old ground – designated as one of the venues for Euro 2000. Mention of a new stadium down by the harbour was first mooted in 1988, but then it was decided that Antwerp should stay put in a refurbished stadium. Some hope.

Government and sponsors' help still left Antwerp a princely sum short of the amount they required for improved facilities. Feeling that they would never get the money back, the club were reluctant to make up the balance and were accused of ill-will. So the season started with the ground half-finished, or half-started.

Whatever the ground's state, the Belgian Federation – erring perhaps on the side of caution but still sensitive to crowd safety after Heysel – could not afford to let Antwerp play there.

The fans' frustration turned to violence in the game at newly-promoted Westerlo where, with their team heading for a 5-2 defeat, they broke down a fence. Antwerp were in good, or bad, company that weekend. Anderlecht fans, infuriated by their team's third successive home defeat – 2-1 by Mouscron – also invaded the pitch, causing a 10-minute hold-up.

The story was much the same at Saint Truiden. Coach Barry Hulshoff had to be protected by stewards from marauding spectators as their team were being thrashed 5-0 by Lierse.

Lierse's 4-1 home defeat by Lommel the previous week enabled the visitors to take over top place when they overcame erstwhile leaders Genk, 3-1. Never before have two teams from the Lemburg province been so high.

Nicholas Harling

AUSTRIA

One win wanted!

THE NATIONAL team confounded the experts and are close to winning their World Cup qualifying group. Victory over Belarus in the last game will ensure automatic entry to next year's finals.

That is a personal triumph for team manager Herbert Prohaska, who took over on January 1, 1993, but at first could not stop the rot. The Austrians failed to reach the finals of the World Cup in 1994 and Euro 1996. "Ninety-nine out of 100 FA presidents would have fired a team boss with my record," says Prohaska.

But OFB (FA) supremo Beppo Mauthart displayed a generous spirit and gave his coach time to rebuild the squad. Now the black-and-whites are once again the idols of the nation.

"We must have patience," Prohaska, the former international star playmaker, would say – the ruling echelon listened to the pleas and are now richly rewarded, provided there are no last-minute hiccups.

Prohaska stuck with the two often troublesome superstars Andi Herzog and Toni Polster (see profile, opposite), and they responded brilliantly. He ignored the differences of opinion with the players and they are now the key men in the climb to the top.

In the championship, Sturm Graz lead the pack and hopes are high that Bosnian team manager Ivica Osim will takes the side to the title. It would be the first in the 88-year history of the club from the Styria state capital.

Their star player is Ivica Vastic, who learned his football with Duisburg in Germany and whose value on the transfer market has shot up to £6million. Two Germans, Franco Foda (ex-Bayer Leverkusen) and Markus Schopp (ex-Hamburg), also are valuable assets.

Arthur Rotmil

SWITZERLAND

Injuries cannot be blamed for disaster

SWISS football was plunged into mourning when the national side were thrashed 5-0 by Norway in the penultimate World Cup qualifying tie, and so lost their final chance of making the play-offs.

The Swiss missed striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz and defender Ramon Vega (both injured) plus full-back Bernt Haas (suspended), but this alone cannot excuse the catastrophic display of the side who only last year made it into the European Championship finals.

Now they are calling for manager Rolf Fringer to be sacked and he does not look like lasting much longer than his hapless predecessor, the Portuguese Artur Jorge.

Some experts, however, are pleading with the FA not to act in haste, and recall that the successful Englishman Roy Hodgson also started badly and was threatened with dismissal.

Following defeats by Ireland away and at home to Bulgaria, only a 2-1 win over France saved Hodgson from ignominy. Who knows how the Swiss would have fared without him in the World Cup qualifying campaign for 1994?

An analysis of the present national squad, published by the newspaper *Sport*, shows that there is some uncertainty about which players should make the first 11. There is no obvious number one goalkeeper, and who should fill the full-back positions is also open to debate, though Vega and Stephane Henchoz are automatic choices as central defenders.

In midfield, Ciriaco Sforza and Murat Yakin are the only certainties, while up front Turkyilmaz and Stephane Chapuisat are the only definite starters.

In the championship, Servette were still pursued by Grasshopper, while at the bottom poor Etoile Carouge were without a win after 11 games.

● Champions Sion reacted to their poor start to the season by sacking Italian coach Alberto Bigon, the former Milan midfielder.

Arthur Rotmil

REP OF IRELAND

Even defeat should do

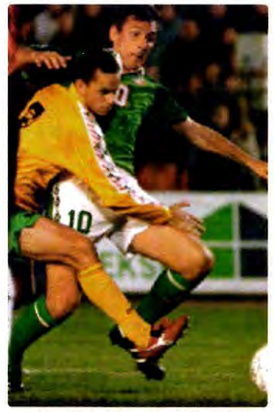
MICK McCARTHY always wanted the final game in Group Eight of the European World Cup qualifiers to be of no interest to the Irish, and so it has happened.

The Republic can afford to lose to runaway group winners Romania at Lansdowne Road on October 11 and still get second place, unless Lithuania beat Macedonia by a huge score in Skopje.

It looked dodgy for national manager McCarthy for a while, even though the FAI had rewarded him with an extension of his contract. Some woeful home displays were redeemed with consecutive away wins over Iceland and Lithuania, where the hero was 35-year-old Tony Cascarino.

McCarthy admitted that he had thought about dropping him from the squad following the defeat by Macedonia earlier this year. Now the veteran – Jack Charlton used to call him the "Ice Cream Man" – could yet get a chance to play for his adopted country in the World Cup finals in France, where he is now enjoying his club football.

Cascarino's two goals against Lithuania took his international tally to 18, two short of Frank Stapleton's all-time Irish record.



In the goals again...Tony Cascarino

With 11 players on yellow cards and no amnesty for the play-offs, McCarthy will almost certainly field a weakened team against Romania. The Irish appear to have a discipline problem: in the 20 months since McCarthy took over, five players have been sent off, compared with only two in the previous 20 years.

Roy Keane is suspended after two cautions, but captain Andy Townsend should be fit to resume, despite a nasty shin injury.

Most countries will be hoping for an away draw in the first leg of the play-offs, but a home draw would solve a few headaches for the FAI. Saturday, November 15, is the date for the second leg, but the Irish rugby union team are due to play New Zealand at Lansdowne Road that day.

FIFA has given the FAI permission to put the game back 24 hours, but that would hardly be enough time to install the extra seats on the terraces to make Lansdowne all-seated. That again proves the need for the FAI to have its own stadium and not to depend on the rugby union home.

McCarthy had suggested that the game be played at Croke Park, home of the Gaelic Athletic Association, but the FAI, citing its alliance with Irish rugby union and knowing that the GAA would almost certainly refuse, did not pursue the matter.

Cork City and Shelbourne have made the best starts in the FAI National League Premier Division. Last season's champions, Derry City, are struggling, but manager Felix Healy says there is no panic and they will be back in the race when their injury problems clear up.

Sean Creedon

FINLAND

Final match is vital

THE NATIONAL team made an amazing recovery after the 4-0 home defeat by Norway, and won 2-1 in Switzerland.

This was Finland's first 'big' victory under Richard Moller Nielsen, who said: "I had to shake my players a bit after the poor showing against Norway. Our football was not always pretty to watch, but the main thing was to win."

The Swiss press wrote off Finland's stubborn defensive style as "anti-football" but the Swiss players wasted several good chances and were guilty of slack marking, especially at the opening goal.

Jari Litmanen and Antti Sumiala, the scorers in Lausanne, have kept Finland's fight alive by sharing seven goals in the qualifiers. Moller Nielsen gambled by giving young defender Juha Reini his debut, and he was one of the better Finns on view.

Now Finland must win the home game against Hungary if they are to finish second in the group. Consequently, it is one of the most important matches ever played in Helsinki.

In the League, HJK won the title for the 19th time, with two rounds to spare.

Pentti Hietanen

Pro-file Toni Polster

Austrian record-breaker looks to France 98

Club Koln (Ger)
Country Austria
Born March 10, 1964, in Vienna
Previous clubs SC Simmering, Austria Vienna, Torino (Ita), Sevilla (Spa), Logrones (Spa), Rayo Vallecano (Spa)
International debut November 1982, v Turkey
International caps 86 (39 goals)
Honours European Golden Boot 1987; Austrian League 1984, 1985, 1986; Austrian Cup 1986

NEVER ONE to take himself too seriously, ace Austrian hitman Toni Polster is rarely without a smile on his face. But even his etched-on grin is wider than usual at the moment – and for good reason.

After hitting a fine hat-trick in Austria's 3-0 win in Estonia back in August and skippering the national team to priceless victories at home to Sweden and in Belarus, Polster and his buddies stand on the brink of another World Cup finals appearance and the 33-year-old evergreen goalgetter cannot wait to set foot on French turf.

"It's very exciting to be involved in an Austrian team which is finally coming good after a long spell in the wilderness," says Polster. "The last time we made it to the finals of a major competition was Italia 90, and there we let ourselves down badly by going out in the first round. We can and must do better than that if we qualify for France.

"I'm very optimistic about the current state of our national team. So many of our internationals are now benefiting from playing in the German, Italian and Spanish championships and I'm also pleased that we have developed a new mentality. We have learnt to be patient in important matches. We don't throw in the towel if things don't go to plan straight away.

"Look at how we had to suffer to get the better of Sweden, in Vienna recently. We were so determined, so focused on getting the three points. At times it seemed as if we were in a trance, totally obsessed with outdoing our opponents."

Decried for his alleged clumsiness and for failing to deliver on the big occasion Polster has certainly had his share of critics among the Austrian media. But even those who rush to criticise him have to acknowledge his achievements.

For the best part of 15 years, the powerful left-footed marksman has had to carry the Austrian attack virtually single-handed. Despite service most charitably described as mediocre, he has still emerged as his nation's top scorer of all-time, finally overhauling the legendary Hans Krankl's yardstick of 34 international strikes a year ago.

Nor is that the only history lesson on offer from Polster. He is just a handful of games away from Gerhar Hanappi's record mark of 93 games for Austria, and all being well, Toni should better the 50s midfield star's tally some time during the France 98 excursion.

Although at an age when most professionals are contemplating retirement, Polster shows no signs of running out of steam and arguably is in the most potent goalscoring form of his career.

His German club Koln would not disagree. The scorer of 66 goals for them in the past four seasons, Polster has done more than most to keep an ordinary Rhine city team in the Bundesliga, a fact accepted by the Koln board earlier this year when they extended the Austrian's contract until 1999 and increased his monthly pay packet to £28,000.

For both Koln and Austria, the ever-enthusiastic Polster is indispensable.

Nick Bidwell

PORTUGAL

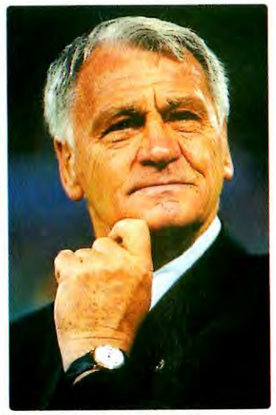
Damasio clings to power

THE struggle for power at Benfica is gathering momentum – although nobody knows for sure who will oppose club president Manuel Damasio at the next election.

Damasio, whose policies have all failed, is now head of a club propped up by so many financial institutions that the phrase 'Ali Baba and the 40 bankers' is in common usage.

Damasio told a meeting of *socios*, the fee-paying members of the once-great club, that he will not contest the presidency again, after they had told him that his report and accounts were unacceptable. They also refused to accept that his plan to float the club on the London Stock Exchange was workable.

Some members are witholding payment of dues and open letters of protest against Damasio are appearing in the press. Yet still he clings to office. No club director was ever so attached to his chair.



Popular choice...Bobby Robson

The latest manager, Manuel Jose, has been sacked after what seems like five minutes in the job. But he is still around, and has not been officially dismissed, in case he were to demand payment for the remainder of his contract; the figure of £1million has been mentioned.

Bobby Robson's name is frequently bandied as a potential managerial successor. He has said in the past that he would like to take on that role at Benfica; he knows Portuguese football, having managed the other big clubs, Sporting and Porto; and surely he would not need to import as many players as Damasio, whose signings are so numerous and so ineffective.

Those rumoured to be potential candidates for the forthcoming presidential election are all in favour of signing Robson, looking upon him as the one man who could possibly save the club from further decline. Currently Benfica are 12th in the League table, 10 points behind Porto and three behind Sporting. And Damasio is still there.

Alberto da Silva

GREECE

Coach in fury over ref

THERE is no need to play any more matches in the Greek First Division this season, according to OFI Crete coach Egen Gehardt.

Talking after his team had lost 3-2 at home to Olympiakos, Dutchman Gehardt said: "We already know that Olympiakos Piraeus will win the championship. We were beaten by a goal that was offside and a fake penalty."

OFI president Yiannis Papamatheakis echoed these sentiments, saying: "In the most crucial match of the season, OFI did not play against Olympiakos but against the referee."

OFI player Costas Haniotakis said: "I don't care if they cut me off from soccer. It's best I become a construction worker. The referee favoured Olympiakos." And team-mate Yiannis Anastasiou added: "The linesmen should have been wearing Olympiakos colours."

Olympiakos issued a statement saying that the comments were acts of "terrorism and have no place in Greek soccer", and asked for the League to punish them.

Greek players say they will strike if the League does not reverse a decision permitting First Division teams to field a squad with a majority of non-European Union citizens.

The Union of Professional Soccer Players (PSAP) expressed concerns that allowing a large number of non-European Union players would limit the promotion of young Greeks to the First Division.

Hundreds of people attended the funeral in Larissa of former international George Mitsobonas, who was killed in a car crash.

Lou Economopoulos

MALTA

Triple tie at the top

THREE CLUBS set the pace at the top of the Coca-Cola Premier League by gaining maximum points from the opening three games.

Sliema, top on goal difference, have been in devastating form, and wins over champions Valletta, Hamrun and Birkirkara have made them hot favourites for the title.

Hibernians also managed three straight victories. The signing of former Chester striker Kevin Noteman seems to be making all the difference.

Floriana's Joe Brincat and Mark Galea have been key factors behind their side's 100 per cent record under new Yugoslav coach Vlada Pejovic.

Birkirkara, who won twice before losing to Sliema, have had a man sent off in all three matches.

Josef Ilic's first match in charge of the national side, against the Czech Republic, was a disappointment and resulted in the ninth consecutive defeat in the World Cup qualifiers.

Domenico Aquilina

CYPRUS

Strikers in form

FANS saw plenty of high-scoring games when the new season began. The defending champions, Anorthosis Famagusta, began by beating Evagoras 6-0 and then Anagennisis, 5-0.

Apoel Nicosia won 4-1 against Ethnikos Assias and 4-2 against Alki, new Croatian international Ardian Kozniku getting two goals in the first game and three in the second.

Kozniku, signed from Le Havre, is the second player to arrive from a French club in recent weeks, following Hungarian Greze Meszoli, who left Lille for AEL Limassol.

Soulis Theodosiou

TURKEY

Fenerbahce in fine form

FOUR successive victories sent Fenerbahce to the head of the table with 18 points from a possible 21, and they have high hopes of a second championship in three seasons.

Their run included a 3-1 defeat of the title-holders, Galatasaray, who have lost five of their last six derby matches against Fenerbahce and lie only sixth.

After a 2-1 defeat by Besiktas, Gala top scorer Hakan Sukur criticised referee Mustafa Culcu, who had turned down appeals for a penalty. "We are suffering as a result of what happened last season, when referees were accused of going out of their way to help us," said Sukur. "Now they seem afraid to give a decision in our favour."

Galatasaray also made a bad start in the Champions League, losing 1-0 at home to injury-hit Borussia Dortmund and leaving themselves a terribly hard job if they are to qualify from a very difficult group. Besiktas also lost, 2-0 to Bayern Munich, who made the most of an early chance presented to them by goalkeeper Fevzi, deputy for the injured Mrmic.

Trabzonspor (2-1 winners at home to Bochum) and Fenerbahce (who drew 0-0 away to Steaua Bucharest) have good chances of making progress in the UEFA Cup, and Kocaelispor have a 2-0 lead to defend when they play the away leg against National Bucharest.

A 5-0 win away to San Marino kept alive the national squad's very faint hopes of World Cup qualification. They just might squeeze into the play-offs if they win their last match, away to leaders Holland, and Belgium lose at home to Wales.

A new president has been elected by the Turkish Football Federation, three months after Senes Erzik resigned. The newcomer is Abdullah Kigili, who polled 118 votes to Alp Yalman's 87.

Hasan Cemal

Appeals rejected...Hakan Sukur

ISRAEL

Betar look bright

FAILURE to qualify for the World Cup was a big disappointment for Israeli soccer fans, who are now hoping that Betar Jerusalem can provide some consolation in the UEFA Cup.

Betar failed to qualify for the Champions League, being eliminated by Sporting Lisbon, but went into the lesser tournament and beat Club Brugge 2-1 in the first leg of the first round.

In the League, Betar beat Hapoel Beersheba 7-2, with Hungarian Stefan Saloi scoring four, and now look real candidates for the title.

Hapoel previously had lost 4-1 to Roda JC Kerkrade in the UEFA Cup, and these defeats prompted them to try to end coach Benny Tabak's contract. But the club backed down, and Tabak remains in charge.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, once feared throughout the land, have gone 23 games without a win. In five of their six matches this season they have led and then failed to win.

Ori Lewis

LUXEMBOURG

Union in front

UNION LUXEMBOURG led the League with four wins from their first five games, thanks largely to Roby Langers, still in fine form at the age of 37, and Marc Kunen, who scored a hat-trick in their latest win, 3-1 at Sporting Mertzig.

Grevenmacher were second on goal difference after being held 1-1 at home by Dudelange.

● Liechtenstein's 8-1 defeat by Romania in the World Cup qualifying tournament drew a crowd of 1,800 to Eschen Mauren. Frick scored the consolation goal in the 64th minute.

Tim Brice

DENMARK

Odense in turmoil

THE shock of the season so far is the abysmal form of OB Odense, traditionally one of the top clubs.

Their gamble on buying out of Africa appeared to be backfiring as they went the first nine matches of the season without a win, losing seven of them and scoring just six goals in the process.

New trainer Roald Poulsen, whose previous job was managing the Zambian national side, had been banking on the flair of a couple of imported players he had used there in internationals. But Andrew Tembo and Mwape Miti are still both goalless.

OB also bought Danish international Stig Tofting to strengthen the midfield alongside the experienced Brian Steen Nielsen and Ronnie Ekelund.

On paper they looked a team to fear. Instead, one calamity has followed another, the latest a 4-1 thrashing at little Herfolge, themselves struggling near the relegation zone.

Another surprise was the plunge in fortunes for champions Brondby, who lost their way after selling two key players, defender Dan Eggen to Seville and striker Peter Moller to PSV Eindhoven.

A 2-1 home defeat by resurgent Vejle left Brondby six points adrift of leaders FC Copenhagen, and followed a 4-1 UEFA Cup first round first leg defeat in Lyon.

Silkeborg, now coached by former Denmark boss Sepp Piontek, lie second.

Jim Holden

ICELAND

Second title for IBV

IBV, the Westmann Islands side who first won the championship in 1979, have repeated the feat. They went through the second half of the season unbeaten to win the title with a match to spare.

IBV ended the domination of IA Akranes, winners of the five previous titles.

Awful start...Odense's Roald Poulsen

Two Reykjavik clubs, Throttur and IB, have won promotion, the latter for the first time in their 89-year history. They replace Stjarnan and Skallgrimur.

Iceland have slumped to 80th place, their lowest ever, in the FIFA rankings after losing 4-0 to Romania in the World Cup qualifiers.

Rab Christie

NORWAY

Rekdal's mixed bag

FOR Kjetil Rekdal, this season has been a strange mixture. As captain of Norway's national side he has gone from triumph to triumph, but his time with Hertha Berlin in Germany has been beset with problems.

His career started with Molde 10 years ago, when he played a vital part in the championship-winning juniors side.

After successful years at the top in Norway he was signed by Borussia Monchengladbach, but says: "I was too young and inexperienced at the time, and never managed to establish myself."

His career was resurrected by Belgian club Lierse and then back in Norway with Molde. Rekdal was a key figure in the qualifying rounds for the 1994 World Cup, scoring against England at Wembley. His winner against Mexico in the US finals has given him a place in national football history.

Having spent most of last season with French club Rennes, he was bought by Hertha Berlin to strengthen their comeback in the Bundesliga. But the club have struggled in their first month and Rekdal has been inconsistent.

For Norway, however, he has been the general in a highly successful World Cup qualifying campaign. They secured their place in France with a 1-0 win away in Azerbaijan, and made Switzerland's visit to Oslo a wonderful finale.

With Rekdal orchestrating the defence, Mini Jakobsen scored Norway's first with a glancing header, Staale Solbakken and Dan Eggen added two more, and goals by Egil Ostenstad and Tore Andre Flo finished the demolition.

But after one of his best matches ever, 28-year-old Rekdal returned to Germany and more difficulties. In addition to playing in a struggling side, he faced a claim from Lierse, who maintained that he broke his contract when he left.

Sigurd Odegaard

Pro-file Jahn Ivar Jakobsen

Norwegian veteran back in national team

Club Rosenborg Trondheim
Country Norway
Born November 8, 1965, in Trondheim
Previous clubs Rosenborg, Young Boys Berne (Swi), MSV Duisburg (Ger)
International debut August 1988, v Bulgaria
International caps 64 (10 goals)
Honours Norwegian League 1988, 1990, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997; Norwegian Cup 1988, 1990, 1996

IT'S NOT hard to understand why Norwegian international midfielder Jahn Ivar Jakobsen is a budding TV presenter.

Certainly Jakobsen's sheer exuberance and sense of theatre were there for all to see when he was recalled to the Norwegian national team for the World Cup qualifier against Switzerland in Oslo. He neatly flicked home a header for his country's opening goal and celebrated with his now customary somersault. It was all good photogenic fare.

Being involved in that 5-0 demolition of the hapless Swiss was a sweet moment for the diminutive character known simply as 'Mini'. He had been ignored by Norway boss Egil Olsen since appearing in a friendly with Spain 18 months ago, and was considered by many to have become one of yesterday's men.

But 'Mini' is nothing if not a fighter, and he forced the hand of Olsen with a string of high-octane performances for Norwegian top dogs and perennial Champions League campaigners Rosenborg of Trondheim.

"In my opinion, there is no question of Jakobsen not deserving another chance with the national team," says ex-Norway skipper Rune Bratseth, now the Rosenborg general manager.

"He is still one of our club's most influential players and, either as an all-out attacker or in midfield, I'm convinced he has the ability to do an excellent job for Norway. He might be coming up to his 32nd birthday, but don't let his age fool you.

"He is as competitive as he ever was. No game is ever lost with Mini buzzing around. With his energy, spirit and talent for goalscoring, he can only be an asset to the national team."

Bratseth makes a valid point. Although Norway's faultless march to France 98 has largely been based on discipline, directness and athleticism, the off-the-cuff, cute skills of Jakobsen could provide a much-needed extra dimension to Egil Olsen's side.

Despite Jakobsen's successful return to national team colours, it will, however, not be at all easy for Mini to command a regular spot. And he knows it.

The Scandinavians already have three highly efficient strikers in the brothers Flo and Manchester United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, while if used deeper, Jakobsen faces a battle royal for the position of all-action midfield prompter with nimble Panathinaikos star Erik Mykland.

"I'm experienced enough to realise there are never any sure things in this game," says Jakobsen. "The national team does have a lot of strength in depth and like all the other guys pushing for a place in the World Cup squad, I will have to be on top form for the next few months if I'm to stay in the picture.

"It's just great to be back in international football. After such a long time away from the national team, I did sometimes wonder if I had played my last game for my country. But I'm not one to be depressed for long. I don't give up easily and told myself that if my form was good for Rosenborg, I could play again for Norway. I feel as if I'm starting a second international career and I've no intention of blowing it."

Nick Bidwell

BULGARIA

President in a bust-up...referee leaves in a wig

Down and in...Bulgaria's Kishishev helps to edge out the Russians

A SUCCESSFUL week in which qualification for the World Cup was secured in a sold-out Levski against Russia was followed by a classic afternoon of scandal at Loco Sofia's away match with Dobrich in Dobrudzha.

Ivanov's goal a few days earlier, which will take the national team to France, was forgotten as referee Slavov seemed to be favouring the capital city visitors, coached by national team manager Hristo Bonev.

This did not please Dobrudzha's president Kolev, who took his team off a quarter of an hour into the second half to, as he put it, "avoid something worse happening".

He thought the crowd were about to invade the pitch, instead of which the Loco players and the officials left the ground beneath a hail of stones and other flying objects to spend the rest of the afternoon sheltering in the dressing-rooms.

The police eventually smuggled referee Slavov out of the ground in time-honoured fashion, disguised as an policeman with a wig and a false nose!

Bulgarian League rules mean a heavy fine for Dobrudzha, loss of the game 5-0, and almost certainly relegation to Division Two. Meantime, Levski lead the table following an away win over Botev, with CSKA fourth.

How Mr Kolev's chances of being elected FA president are affected by the riot on his home ground remain to be seen. As for Mr Slavov, it looks unlikely he will be leaving his home town of Varna for Dobrudzha very often.

Bob Vaughan

CZECH REPUBLIC

Slavia the best bet

THOUGH it was all doom and gloom on the World Cup front after the defeat by Slovakia in Bratislava, all is well at the Letna, where maximum points from three consecutive games put Sparta Prague top, seven points above city rivals Slavia.

In the postponed game at promoted Lazne Bohdanec, Sparta recorded an easy 3-0 win, and their hosts, runners-up to Second Division champions Dukla last season, seem bound for a swift return.

Boby Brno had been dismissed 6-2 on aggregate in the qualifying round of the UEFA Cup by Rapid Vienna before Sparta took on Parma in the Champions League, but goalless home draws will not get them far. Club owner and president Alexander Rezes will nonetheless be expecting points and funds from the far more experienced of his two teams in Europe's premier competition.

Cup winners Slavia, however, may go furthest in Europe. They beat Swiss side Lucerne 4-2 at Eden, though they might pay for the away goals if Jan Stejskal is not in the form of spring 1996, when they reached the UEFA Cup semi-finals.

The national team defeated the Faroes by Smicer's goal and Kuka's penalty in a World Cup qualifier.

There remains pride and third place to play for in Group Six when the Slovaks visit the Letna for the first-ever peacetime competitive international.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Minnows deliver surprise package

AFTER their 5-0 humiliation in Paris, Steaua hit back with a 5-1 thrashing of CSM Resita to go level third with National in the domestic table.

Two surprise teams, FC Arges and Otelul Galati, continue to make the pace, but it is a close race, with Steaua and National only three points behind and Rapid five adrift after a 1-0 victory over Farul in Constanta.

Dinamo already look out of it, though the only goal brought home the points from Ploiesti against modest Petrolul.

On the UEFA front, Steaua could only draw at home 0-0 with Fenerbahce and it may be left to National to carry the flag, though the former Progresul club, too, will have to pull out all the stops to claw back the two goals lost to Kocaelispor in Turkey. Otherwise, it will be a whitewash in round one.

In contrast, the national team were the first European qualifiers for France 98. Romania went into their penultimate group game with Iceland full of confidence, and two goals from Hagi contributed to another clear victory.

The last match, in Dublin, could be the most difficult and least important! For Romania.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Julius aims to seize power for Kosice

EURO-MANIA replaced the Waltz of the Coaches when Slovan faced Chelsea and Kosice met Manchester United.

The latter's opening game in Group B on Lok Kosice's ground – the All Sport Stadium is still being renovated – was the first time a team from Slovakia had appeared in the Champions League.

To general surprise, FCK had qualified with a 0-0 draw against Dynamo in Moscow, but their defensive limitations were exposed when Molnar and Telek respectively blundered for United's second and third goals.

Matters had not been helped by poor early-season form and the departure of coach Jan Kozak only 72 hours before the greatest game in Kosice football history. No team from the city had ever won the Czechoslovak or Slovak championship and now president Julius Rezes, the 25-year-old millionaire son of the Sparta Prague owner, is determined the 'Oranges' will replace Slovan as the country's top outfit.

Father Alexander may run for the FA presidency, which would put the East in the driving seat at club and international level. Kozak's replacement, expected to be Karol Pecze, will have his work cut out in Europe and in the Championship but money is available so perhaps Kosice will soon be back on top.

For the moment Spartak Trnava lead, with Zilina second. Former Cup-winners Cup representatives Dunajska Streda are propping things up despite coach Skorpil's return after a year in Prague.

At least Slovan are pretty content. Despite the loss of a whole team in the past two years, the 2-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge was much better than expected and the new man in charge, Jozef Prochotsky, can be pleased with his tactical success against Chelsea.

He is one of the coaches still in his post after seven championship matches. Five of the 16 in charge when the League kicked off in August have gone.

Bob Vaughan

RUSSIA

Media blows the whistle on referees

MOSCOW SPARTAK's failure to reach the Champions League was followed by a bigger blow – the Russian national team missed an opportunity to secure direct qualification for the 1998 World Cup finals.

This time, however, the players and coaches were not criticised as severely as in the past. The media put the blame for the crucial defeat in Sofia on Vatslav Krondl, the Czech referee, who failed to award at least three possible penalties against the home team.

And a week later, Alania Vladikavkaz fell victim to more poor refereeing, this time by a Maltese official in a UEFA Cup game in Budapest.

According to local newspapers, if no urgent steps are taken by the country's soccer officials, Russian teams will keep suffering from referees who are out 'to avenge' their countries' past political humiliation by the Soviet Union.

Likewise, Russian clubs are allegedly not safe in cases of referees representing smaller countries who can be financially influenced by their opponents. "Aren't we rich enough to be refereed properly?" striker Igor Kolyvanov asked desperately on the plane after the game in Sofia.

Observers compare 'the Krondl case' with that of Fredriksson, the Swedish referee who allowed two 'offside' goals by Belgium when they eliminated the USSR from the 1986 World Cup finals.

Four years later, in Italy, the same man ignored Maradona's handling on Argentina's goal line, and the Soviet team lost again.

Some analysts attack Vyacheslav Koloskov, the long-time President of the Soviet (now Russian) Football Union. According to them, the "unsinkable" official always has been "too diplomatic" with UEFA and FIFA in exchange for his international vice-presidency.

On the other hand, it is not clear how Koloskov could 'protect' Russian teams against bad refereeing.

The defeat in Sofia means that Russia needed to win the return match against Bulgaria to have a chance of qualifying for France through the play-offs for the nations finishing second in their groups.

Victor Gusev

HUNGARY

Second place in sight

TOPSY-TURVY results or no topsy-turvy results, Hungary still have a chance of coming second in their World Cup group.

A draw in Helsinki would do, but given the poor run of results in recent years it could be a dangerous target to aim for.

But it took a last-minute goal from substitute Illes to see off Azerbaijan after they had pulled a goal back through Litschkin, only their third score in nine World Cup outings.

Coach Csank has watched his side average less than a goal in qualifying matches, but Hungary's defence has been reasonably tight despite two defeats. If they do qualify, it will be the first time this decade, but the second time they will have appeared in France. It is 60 seasons since Sarosi & Co were in the Final, but there is a long way to go before this squad can dream of matching that achievement.

MTK failed to qualify for what would have been their first Champions League entry and had to be content with a UEFA Cup start against Vladikavkaz. At least it was a good one, a 3-0 win which should have been sufficient to survive a tricky return.

Csank...hoping against hope

Ferencvaros lost 3-0 to OFI of Crete and with BVSC not scoring in Seville against Betis, MTK may well be the only representatives left in the second round.

The champions are not having it all their own way in the League. Far from it. Gyor ETO lead after winning at Siofok and drawing at home with BVSC, who stand joint fourth with MTK.

Ferencvaros are having difficulties at home and in Europe. The OFI debacle came on the back of a 3-2 defeat at Vacs and a 1-0 reverse in Bekescaba, leaving Fradi eighth, 11 points adrift of Gyor.

No consolation, but their former coach, Zoltan Varga, now at Kispesti Honved, is doing even worse. Narrow defeats at Haladas and at home to Vasas sent his club to the foot of the table.

As Puskas said on a visit to England: "Don't ask me about modern football in Hungary! Anything else, OK."

Bob Vaughan

MACEDONIA

Happy to be third

MACEDONIA will finish third in their World Cup group if they beat Lithuania in Skopje in their final match.

"That would be a success for this young generation," said national coach Gjoko Hadzievski, but he was naturally disappointed by the 2-0 defeat in Vilnius, which cost his team their last chance of going into the second-place play-offs.

Newly-promoted Skopje top the League after six games, despite financial problems, with Pelister a point behind and Sileks two points further back.

Michel Stojmanovski

UKRAINE

Kiev lose dynamic Euro form at home

KIEV DYNAMO's 1-0 home defeat by Premier League newcomers Metallurg did not surprise those in the know at the club – least of all the president, Grigory Surkis.

He knows that the Champions League means everything to Dynamo this season, even if it means sacrificing the domestic title. The 3-1 win over PSV in Holland was the true Kiev: the flop against Metallurg was the other side of that particular coin.

When they reached the Champions League in 1994, Dynamo promised their players around a £30,000 bonus for each victory in the tournament. They won only one game, and lost five. "This year, the financial rewards will not be less," says Surkis. "We have prepared very seriously, and our players are highly motivated."

Andrey Shevchenko, the club's leading player, says they have to produce "pure quality" if they are to progress at the expense of Barcelona and Newcastle as well as PSV, but he knows full well that the Champions League is the gateway to an international market-place in which top players can earn huge rewards.

Oleg Zadernovsky

ALBANIA

Merry-go-round likely to favour FK

FK TIRANA, favourites for another championship, recruited five players during the brief close season.

Coach Enver Shehu has signed Ilir Alliu and Sokol Prenga from Flamurtari, Arjan Zere of Tomori, Skenderbeu's Altin Drita and Alban Tafaj from Partizani, while internationals Ardan Mema, Salmir Malko and Nevil Dedem made the short trip across the capital to join Partizani.

In addition to Alliu and Prenga, Flamurtari have lost Julian Gjeloshi, Leonard Perloshi and Devi Muka to Partizani, while Ervin Faka has joined Spanish Second Division club Toledo.

Gezim Nushi

Pro-file Trifon Ivanov

New power behind Bulgarian throne

Club Rapid Vienna (Aut)
Country Bulgaria
Born July 27, 1965, in Veliko Tarnovo
Previous clubs Etar Veliko, CSKA Sofia, Betis (Spa) Neuchatel Xamax (Swi), CSKA Sofia
International debut April 1988, v East Germany
International caps 69 (6 goals)
Honours Bulgarian League 1989, 1990 (CSKA); Bulgarian Cup 1988, 1989 (CSKA); Austrian League 1996 (Rapid Vienna)

NO LONGER is the Bulgarian national set-up just the stage for the Hristo Stoichkov Show. These days, it seems, centre-back and skipper Trifon Ivanov calls the shots in the Bulgar camp.

Stoichkov reacted to the ousting of Bulgarian Euro 96 coach Dimitar Penev, and his replacement by Hristo Bonev, by refusing to turn out for his country for the best part of a year. But when he returned to the squad he found his ability to win friends and influence people had waned considerably, with Trifon "Wolfman" Ivanov the new power behind the throne.

Tension was evident between the rebellious Stoichkov and those members of the national team who had remained loyal to Hristo Bonev, and after Bulgaria's crucial World Cup 98 qualifying win at home to Israel, Ivanov made a point of issuing a public reprimand to the once untouchable Barcelona star.

"Hristo wants to take each and every free-kick we are given, but he is completely wrong to think he has the right to do so," said Ivanov. "He must be more humble.

"The coach gives the orders about who takes the free-kicks, not Stoichkov. We already have a great taker of dead-balls in Krassimir Balakov. He's a free-kick specialist in his own right and should not be pushed aside by Stoichkov."

A petty argument, perhaps. But the message from Ivanov to his predecessor as national captain was crystal clear: shape up and toe the party line – or else.

The clash of Bulgarian skippers past and present, however, had a happy ending, with Stoichkov's perfect through ball setting up Ivanov to head the only goal in the victory over Russia last month, a three-pointer which clinched the squad's place at next summer's finals .

"I just followed my instincts and moved into the box," explains Ivanov. "I'm glad I did. Stoichkov put across a great ball and I only had to glance it in.

"It's usually an event when I'm on target for the national team. I've managed only a handful of goals in nearly a decade as an international player. It's pretty unbelievable that a defender like me scored the goal that took us to the World Cup."

Ivanov, now 32, is just one of several Bulgarian mainstays at an advanced stage of their careers. Yet the mean and moody marker has no time for those critics who maintain the country's footballing finest are a shade over the hill.

"By finishing first in a group which contained a strong Russian side and an improving Israel, I think we've killed off claims that a lot of us are too long in the tooth," he says. "There is nobody in our squad going through the motions while they wait to retire.

"As we showed against Russia, we are never better than when we meet tough opposition. Thereill be plenty of that in France. And we'll be ready."

Nick Bidwell

BRAZIL

Brian Homewood on the Edmundo enigma

Zagallo's poser

WHAT DOES Mario Zagallo (or anyone else for that matter) do about Edmundo? In the space of less than one month, this hugely volatile but extremely gifted player has reminded us of all the reasons he should be included in the Brazil squad for France, and all the reasons he should be left behind.

Edmundo the liability made millions of enemies when he insulted the people of Natal in north-eastern Brazil after being sent off for the fifth time this year. But Edmundo the genius has almost single-handedly led Vasco da Gama to third place in the Brazilian championship, scoring six goals in one game against Uniao Sao Joao, and then inspiring them to a 4-1 win over Parana.

Edmundo and Mr Trouble have been room-mates since the start of his career. At Palmeiras, he got into fights with team-mates, spent a week under hotel arrest in Ecuador for smashing a television camera during a Libertadores Cup game and once instigated a brawl which held up a match for 15 minutes.

Now Edmundo has added to his collection of controversies by making racist slurs during Vasco's visit to newly-promoted America-Natal. Early in the second half of an otherwise mundane 0-0 draw, Edmundo was shown the red card by referee Dacildo Mourao, who comes from Fortaleza. The logical conclusion, at least to Edmundo, was that the referee was biased, even though Natal and Fortaleza are nearly 400 miles apart.

"The Animal" expressed his discontent by employing the term "Paraiba", a slang word used by people in the relatively prosperous south-east to describe anything or anyone north-eastern.

"The game is in Paraiba and they put a Paraiba in charge, what do you expect?" he told reporters who interviewed him as soon as he crossed the touchline. The referee included the comments in his match report.

The Paraiba state government threatened to sue and on Vasco's next visit to the region, Edmundo was jeered by the crowd, who pelted him with assorted missiles.

Edmundo eventually escaped with a fine of about £50, while noises were made about suspending the referee for mentioning the incident: Edmundo's comments were made off the field and should not have been included in the report.

Edmundo, who in the meantime had paid a visit to a Rio police station after getting into a fight with a student on Ipanema beach, took full advantage of his let-off. He scored all the goals as Vasco beat Uniao Sao Joao 6-0 to stay in the running for a place in the last eight. Three more goals during Vasco's next two games took him top of the scoring table with 14 and must have left national coach Zagallo wondering what to do next.

Zagallo's dilemma is that Edmundo, at his best, is probably as good as Ronaldo. He shares the same ability to run at the heart of defences and can supply goals as well as score them.

Zagallo, however, remembers only too well that in his last Brazil game, the Copa America Final against Bolivia, Edmundo elbowed an opponent during the second half. Lenient refereeing spared him another sending off but he was immediately substituted by a livid Zagallo.

Vasco certainly need him. He has transformed their otherwise toothless outfit into Rio de Janeiro's only serious title contenders. Without him, Vasco probably would be in a similar situation to the other Rio teams.

Two of them, Botafogo and Fluminense, are in the relegation zone. Both sacked their managers after losing at home on the same day to north-eastern teams – Botafogo 3-1 to Bahia and Fluminense 3-0 to Sport Recife – and experiencing major protests from their fans.

An entire section of the Fluminense crowd turned their backs on the game and stayed that way in protest after Sport's third goal, while an angry mob of Botafogo supporters gathered outside the stadium to insult the players, who were escorted out of the dressing room by security men.

Portuguesa, last year's runners-up, led the first stage of the championship with Palmeiras, Internacional and Atletico Mineiro looking good to join them in the last eight. Only three points separated the teams in seventh and 18th places. Libertadores champions Cruzeiro and Corinthians were among the traditional powers who found themselves nearer relegation than the last eight. Eighteen managers lost their jobs in the first three months of the competition, with Botafogo, Fluminense, Goias and Uniao Sao Joao all now on their third.

In trouble...Edmundo made racist comments

ARGENTINA

Boca go into big business

SEVERAL big clubs around the world have gone on the stock exchange, but Argentina's Boca Juniors have started a unique investment fund which will buy and sell players like shares.

Under president Mauricio Macri, who comes from a rich industrial family, the club have started selling shares at £63 each to form a £12million fund, which will buy contracts of players under 26, loan them to the club and then try to sell them.

Half the profit will go to the club and the other half to the fund which will pay dividends to shareholders. If there is a loss on the operation it will be absorbed by the fund.

A 16-man committee of club officials, former players and investment specialists are in charge of the fund, which will enable Boca to acquire players without having to buy them.

Boca again went heavily into the transfer market to try to win a title quickly. They bought Colombian goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba, Peruvian defender Nolberto Solano, Colombian defender Jorge Bermudez and leading local players Martin Palermo and the Barros Schelotto twins, Guillermo and Gustavo.

Argentinian striker Claudio Caniggia also finally decided to return and another newcomer is Mexican striker Luis Hernandez, the top scorer in this year's Copa America, but he was injured in his first training session and has not yet played.

Independiente, who have acquired Paraguayan striker Aristides Rojas, Colombian midfielder Wilmar Cabrera and local prolific scorer Gustavo Reggi, won both their first matches, as did Rosario Central.

Racing Club's former national team coach, Alfio Basile, did not renew his contract and was replaced by Carlos Babington (from Huracan) who is commonly known as "61 Ingles".

The cash-strapped club nevertheless obtained the loan of River Plate's former international defender, Roberto Trotta.

Newell's Old Boys, who were close to winning the title at the end of last season, acquired former World Cup goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea and Uruguayan striker Josemir Lujambio.

Lanus signed former defender Oscar Ruggeri, but sold goalkeeper Carlos Roa.

COLOMBIA

FA chief jailed

FORMER Colombian FA president Juan Jose Bellini, who had been in jail on remand since 1995, has been sentenced to six years in prison for receiving money from drug traffickers.

Two clubs are in serious financial difficulties – Independiente Santa Fe and Independiente Medellin – and the players, who have not been paid, are talking of strike action. Santa Fe, whose players had not turned up for training, beat Millonarios 2-0 in the Bogota derby, and Nacional – fielding a reserve team because of Super Cup commitments – beat Independiente by the same score in the Medellin derby.

Rene Higuita, now keeping goal for Veracruz in the Mexican League, has been recalled for international duty in Colombia's B team.

URUGUAY

Penarol punished

PENAROL, chasing their fifth consecutive title, lost first place in the championship after the Uruguayan FA decided to deduct the points originally awarded to them in their opening match, which was suspended due to crowd trouble.

Rampla Juniors, who were level at the time, have been awarded the points.

This left Penarol in third place with eight points after five games behind modest clubs River Plate (10) and Liverpool (9).

Pele takes on Congress

PELE, Brazil's sports minister, has ignored FIFA president Joao Havelange's threats to expel Brazil from next year's World Cup and submitted a bill to Congress which aims at reducing the powers of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF).

Pele proposes: to force clubs to become public limited companies subject to strict financial law; to allow clubs to set up their own leagues; and to allow referees to set up their own federations.

The bill is open to interpretation on several points but Havelange's threat to expel Brazil on the basis that it infringes FIFA statutes clearly shows that it alarms the powers that be.

The CBF, presided over by Havelange's son-in-law Ricardo Teixeira, have rented a house in a plush suburb of Brazilia to use as a headquarters for their campaign to defeat the bill in Congress.

"I know there are lots of interests involved and it's not going to be easy," said Pele. "But I do not see why an honest person should be against cleaning up sport."

The route through Congress is expected to be long and tortuous. The clubs have a strong lobby led by Eurico Miranda, a congressman and vice-president of Vasco da Gama.

Teixeira has accused Pele of trying to "nationalise football". Pele was outraged by Teixeira's decision to allow Fluminense and Bragantino back into Serie A of the Brazilian championship, after being relegated last season.

"I don't think anything more despicable could have happened to the Brazilian game," Pele said.

Brian Homewood

JAPAN

Marinos win 11 on the trot

YOKOHAMA MARINOS and Gamba Osaka have been the surprise teams of the J.League's second stage. Marinos started the stage in the worst possible fashion with a 4-1 home defeat by Jubilo Iwata. "It was just the same as in the first stage," said Spanish manager Azkargorta. "We're still making the same mistakes. We only started wanting to play when 4-0 down."

Marinos lost the next match, too, at home to Uruwa Reds, but then amazed everyone by winning 11 in a row. The revival started away to Gamba Osaka. Three days later, Julio Salinas netted four in a 7-2 demolition of Verdy Kawasaki, and Marinos have never looked back. The streak survived even the national team call-up of keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, defenders Masami Ihara and Norio Omura, and striker Shoji Jo, who all had to miss the last two-thirds of the stage because of World Cup duty. The run came to an end with a 2-1 defeat away to first-stage champions Kashima Antlers.

Gamba Osaka also started the second stage on the wrong foot with a defeat by lowly Kyoto Purple Sanga. After losing to Marinos, however, a run of nine straight victories took Gamba to the top of the table.

Gamba have used their money wisely in bringing in relatively unsung foreign talent. Besides Cameroon striker Patrick Mboma, they have Boban Babunski from Macedonia, Amir Karc from Slovenia, and young Yugoslavian Nebojsa Krupnikovic. Croatian manager Josip Kuze has taught a long-ball, counter-attacking game, focused on the speed and skill of Mboma, plus tight defending by Babunski and excellent stoppers, Noritada Saneyoshi and Tsuneyasu Miyamoto.

Gamba eventually came unstuck in successive games against Kashiwa Reysol and Jubilo Iwata.

Mboma is likely to finish as the J.League's top scorer. In Gamba's last match but one, a 4-1 win against Uruwa Reds, he drew level on 23 goals with Edilson, Kashiwa Reysol's Brazilian – on the day Edilson left Japan to join Corinthians of Brazil. Mboma has one match, at home to JEF United Ichihara, to take top spot.

Kashima Antlers made a confident start in the Asian Club Championship, winning 6-1 at home and 2-1 away to Geylang United of Singapore. The away game clashed with a J.League fixture, and Antlers also had four players away with the national squad, but a mixed reserve and youth team bravely defended that commanding first-leg lead.

Consadole Sapporo are racing away with the Japan Football League, the Second Division, and look certain to be promoted to the J.League. Kawasaki Frontale are clinging to second place.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

● **IN CHILE**, players announced a strike because many clubs are not complying with payment obligations according to contracts.

After five rounds of the closing championship, Universidad Catolica were a point ahead of opening champions Colo Colo, who had a game in hand.

Lowly Santiago Wanderers, based in Valparaiso, have had a third player test positive for drugs. As in the previous cases, the player concerned, Francisco Hormann, has had his contract cancelled.

● **IN ECUADOR**, national team goalkeeper Giovanny Ibarra was attacked by a swarm of ants during a game in Guayaquil, where his team, Nacional, lost 1-0 to Emelec. He was seen racing towards the referee to request permission to go off to change his clothes…Liga Deportiva Universitaria continue to lead the closing championship after drawing 1-1 with Quito rivals Deportivo, two points behind in second place.

Eric Weil

Pro-file Hidetoshi Nakata

Japanese rebel aiming to impress

Born January 22, 1977
Club Bellmare Hiratsuka
Country Japan (10 caps, 3 goals)
International debut May 1997, v South Korea
International caps 10 (3 goals)

HIDETOSHI NAKATA has done more than any other player to turn Japan's World Cup campaign around since his debut in the friendly with South Korea in May.

He combines a cool head with poise, vision, possession skills, delicate touch and devastating through passes. He scores, too, with headers and long drives.

Nakata has the sense and the willingness to spot unlikely openings and then execute often extraordinary passes to bring them off. "You have to be a good trapper with Nakata," says striker Kazu Miura. "The ball comes so fast."

Nakata has shown, as in the Olympics in Atlanta last year, that he will play against even Brazil with the same total confidence as he would a minor team. He knows that he can retain the ball under pressure and deliver the killer passes against the best in the world.

For a 20-year-old, that probably sounds like arrogance. Beneath the cool exterior, there is a well of pent-up anger that energises his play and pervades his entire personality. It is not that he does not respect other players; he just will not stand aside for anybody.

Take, for example, his comments on playing for the full national team. "It is not as if I love Japan," he says. "I don't do this in order to play for Japan. I do it for myself." Nakata is an existential rebel, good at maths at school and on record as saying that he'd like his football prizes in the form of book tokens.

Nakata's dream, when young, was "to live a comfortable life". He played for Japan at Under-15, U-17, U-19, U-20 and U-23 levels, reaching the quarter-finals of both the U-17 (1993) and U-20 (1995) world youth championships and impressing at Atlanta.

He also won an Asian Cup-winners Cup medal with Bellmare in 1995 which, typically, he describes as more important than the Atlanta experience.

He says that the World Cup has no special meaning for him, except as an opportunity to display what he can do. He has had a spell training in Italy and wants to play abroad.

Nakata chose Bellmare because of their style, and had excellent mentors for pefecting his timing and ball skills in Brazilian team-mates like Betinho, Almir and Simao.

In the national team, the Bellmare connection is now taking over the right side of the pitch, where Nakata is joined by Akira Narahashi, who left Bellmare for Antlers at the start of the season, and Wagner Lopes. Nakata described football as a circus when joining Bellmare at the age of 18. He has retained his calm about his rapid elevation to the national team. "It is a chance for me to move a step higher, so I'll just keep on doing my best, as always," he says.

That is not as lackadaisical as it sounds from an immensely talented player who is never less than committed.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea take command

SOUTH KOREA took pole position for the automatic qualifying berth from Group B of the second round of World Cup qualifiers with an eventful 2-1 win against Japan in Tokyo.

"It was a dramatic victory," said the South Korean manager, former Bundesliga player Cha Bum-Kun. "We blocked the Japanese tactics. But it is still nonsense to talk of qualifying, with another five games to go."

South Korea had a 3-0 win over Kazakhstan in their opening game, 24-year-old Sangmoo striker Choi Yong-Soo scoring a hat-trick.

Next day, Japan raced to a 4-0 half-time lead against Uzbekistan, who rallied in the second half but lost 6-3, Kazu Miura of Verdy Kawasaki netting four.

Then it was the UAE's turn to romp past Kazakhstan, 4-0, while South Korea snatched a goal three minutes from time to edge out Uzbekistan in Seoul.

Japan drew 0-0 in the UAE, who then finished off the Uzbeks with a 3-2 win in Tashkent. All eyes, though, were on the meeting of Japan and South Korea in Tokyo. Tickets had sold out almost as soon as they went on sale and the 60,000-capacity National Stadium could have been filled 10 times over.

"The Japanese midfielders, Nakata and Nanami, are very good," said Cha, "but they can be blocked when marked one to one. Japan build from midfield, so I knew that if we closed down on them there, we could win."

Japanese manager Shu Kamo made several surprising selections, including new striker Wagner Lopes, a citizen of Brazil until recently. Lopes went to Japan as a teenager, played under Kamo at Nissan, and is now with Bellmare Hiratsuka.

The even bigger surprise was that Kamo abandoned his successful 3-5-2 formation for the 4-4-2 line-up that had looked so rickety in the Asian Cup and early World Cup qualifiers. But for most of the match, Japan looked likely to get away with it.

Neither team created much in the first half, with the Japanese wasting a lot of possession but coping with Korea's counter-attacks. When Motohiro Yamaguchi robbed Ko Jung-Woon outside the box, rounded sweeper Hong Myong-Bo and scooped the ball over the keeper to score in the 67th minute, Japan seemed to be heading for a famous victory.

Then Kamo made a tactical switch. With just 17 minutes to go, he chose to sit back on the lead, taking off Lopes and putting on Yutaka Akita to mark Korean substitute Seo Jung-Wong.

As Seo weaved around the pitch, Akita in his wake, the Japanese back line was disrupted. Without Lopes up front, the Koreans had more liberty to push their defenders into attack and the Japanese had no target when they did go forward.

Japan's luck held for a while, but their defence had disintegrated. Lee Ki-Hyung set up Korea's equaliser, scored by Seo, and three minutes later, defender Lee Min-Sung hit the winner from outside the box.

Kamo, who had only himself to blame, complained his players had stopped running in the last 10 minutes. In fact, they were confused.

"We lost the first goal," said Cha, "but I told my players to stay relaxed. I introduced two fast players as the Japanese got tired. The timing of the substitution of Ko by Seo was always going to be the big point for me."

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

Stumbling block...Japan's World Cup hopes were dented by their main rivals

IN BRIEF

Arab favourites are no thoroughbreds

AL SHABAB, the hot favourites, surprisingly failed in their attempt to win the eighth Arab Cup-winners Cup, losing 2-0 in the final against outsiders Mouloudia Oran of Algeria.

The first goal came after 28 minutes, from Al-Sharif Ben Razka, and Al Shabab were unable to break through despite increasingly frantic attempts to equalise. Then, in the last minute, Al-Sharif Ben Amara scored a second.

Al Shabab had reached the Final with a last-gasp goal by Fuad Anwar Amin against the hosts, Al Ismaili of Egypt. In the other semi-final, Mouloudia beat Al Ahly of Libya 5-1.

Ian our man in Oman

THE much-travelled Ian Porterfield has been appointed manager of Oman.

Porterfield, who scored the winning goal when Sunderland beat Leeds in the 1973 FA Cup Final, later coached both Sheffield clubs, Aberdeen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Romanian Mircea Radulescu, who took his country to the 1994 World Cup finals, has signed a one-year deal to manage Syria, and Brazilian Ernesto Vidas is the new boss in Bahrain. Vidas guided Botafogo to the 1993 Brazilian championship.

● Al Ansar of Lebanon have qualified for the Asian Club Cup for the second time in three years, by beating Al Wahda of Yemen 2-0 home and away.

Mohamed Chbaro

AUSTRALIA

Sydney pay penalty for crowd trouble

SYDNEY UNITED have surprisingly avoided expulsion from the National League for bringing the game into disrepute over their fans' actions during a crowd disturbance in May.

Instead, Soccer Australia fined the club £15,000, imposed a good behaviour bond of £28,000, and ordered Sydney to make efforts to attract players, supporters and officials with non-Croatian backgrounds.

The new season is likely to bring the emergence of promising youngsters pressing for places in Australia's team for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

● NEW ZEALAND is reflecting on the junior side's 13-0 walloping by Spain at the World Under-17 Championship, and the National League's failure to attract a major sponsor.

The disastrous result for the juniors was bad enough (the young Kiwis had been expected to perform creditably), but the League's funding problems have the potential to cause immense and sustained damage.

Soccer New Zealand confirmed the 1997-98 programme only seven weeks before it is due to start, on November 1. "It will be a very austere competition," an SNZ spokesman admitted. "There will be no whistles and bells."

Paul Moon

MALAYSIA

West top out East

SARAWAK, under Australian manager Alan West, won the M-League title aided by Englishman Billy Bone and Alister Edwards, a compatriot of West. Sarawak earned 54 points from 27 matches, three points more than Sabah in second.

Malaysian police have smashed an international football gambling ring based in the northern state of Penang, which used the Internet to accept bets.

The syndicate was linked to an illegal betting house in England and had accepted more than £1.6million in wagers in one month this year.

● IN BANGLADESH, the FA has set up a three-member committee to investigate their poor show in the South Asian Cup in Nepal.

Bangladesh, one of the tournament favourites, drew 1-1 with Maldives and lost 3-0 to India, the eventual winners.

● IN JORDAN, the new season began with Al Ramtha and Al Hussain securing seven points from their opening three matches.

Azam Mahmood

INDIA

India the best of six

INDIA won the six-nation South Asian Football Federation Cup by beating outsiders the Maldives 5-1 in the Final at the Desarath Stadium in Nepal.

They also had the Player of the Tournament, Baichung Bhutia, and the top scorer, I M Vijayan.

The contest is confined to six South Asian countries, with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka the other four. India beat Pakistan to win the first tournament, in 1993; Pakistan gained their revenge against India in the Final of the 1995 competition.

● WEST RIFFA of Bahrain won the invitation Scissors Cup in Calicut, India, beating FC Cochin after the first match had been abandoned owing to a floodlight failure. The rematch was goalless after extra time but the teams decided to draw lots rather than go to penalties, and West Riffa chose correctly.

Bhasi Malaparamba & G C Das

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Egyptian magicians lose winning formula

DEFENDING champions Zamalek are floundering and fellow seeds Orlando Pirates need a major revival at the halfway stage.

Egyptians Zamalek have suffered two successive defeats in Group B and Pirates are the only team without a point in Group A. Upstarts Primeiro Agosto of Angola and Club Africain top the tables.

Zamalek's slump comes on the back of a major change in personnel. After scraping a 2-1 home win over Ferroviario Maputo in their opening match, they suffered a 2-0 defeat at Club Africain and lost 3-1 to Goldfields in Ghana.

Goldfields were heading for a 1-0 victory until Tarek Mostafa equalised a minute from time for what seemed a vital point, but Togolese international Kossi Noutsoudje scored twice in injury time.

Club Africain are unbeaten in Group B. They stumbled in their opening match, at home to Goldfields, then got on track against Zamalek with goals from Faouzi Rouissi and veteran striker Jamel Limam, before taking a point at Ferroviario.

Pirates have flopped – a home defeat by Primeiro was followed by away setbacks against USM Alger and Raja Casablanca. Raja, who have more home games to come than Primeiro, look a good bet for a place in December's Final.

Mark Gleeson

NATIONS CUP DRAW

Michel's men facing a deadly mission

MOROCCO have emerged as the dominant force in African football over the past 18 months but they will be severely tested at the Nations Cup finals in Burkina Faso.

Henri Michel's team were cast into the 'group of death' with Zambia, Egypt and Mozambique when the draw was made for February's competition.

Morocco and Egypt shared the same qualifying group and must now clash again in the desert confines of Bobo-Dioulasso, in south-west Burkina Faso.

Zambia were the top seeds for Group D but their new-look side could go out before the knockout stage.

Cameroon and South Africa came out of the draw smiling. The former, in Group A with Burkina Faso, Algeria and Guinea, have a real chance to return to the glory days of a decade ago when they were the team to beat in this competition.

They will play in Ouagadougou as will Group B, which comprises Ghana, Tunisia, Togo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire.

Defending champions and Group C seeds South Africa are in Bobo-Dioulasso along with Angola, Ivory Coast and upstarts Namibia. They have the perfect staging ground, it would seem, for an unprecedented second successive title.

Mark Gleeson

IN BRIEF

CENTRAL AFRICA

CONGO lost on penalties to Canada in the Final of the Francophone Games tournament in Madagascar, while Cameroon beat the host nation 2-1 in extra time for the bronze medal.

Kinshasa's Daring Club Motema Pembe and Vita Club are on course to meet in the Final of the national championship in the Democratic Republic of Congo (ex-Zaire). DCMP lead 3-0 against TP Mazembe after the first leg of their semi-final, while Vita have a two-goal cushion over Sanga Balende of Mbuji-Mayi.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA have suspended German coach Reinhard Fabisch for alleged sabotage and absconding from duty. Fabisch, whose one-year contract has just ended, failed to turn up for a trip to Iran with the national team.

NORTH AFRICA

RUUD KROL, new coach of African champions Zamelek, has released Ahmed El Kass, Ashraf Kacem and skipper Ismail Youssef, and signed striker Akram Abdelmagid of Beladiet Mehalla.

Egyptian international Abdelsatar Sabry, who helped Arab Contractors win the African Cup-winners Cup last December, has gone to German club Wolfsburg on trial.

Tunisians Esperance have signed Nigerian international defender Teslim Fatusi on loan from Swiss club Servette Geneva.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZAMBIA have banned First Division coach Joe Nstate and three players for life for assaulting a referee. Nstate, of Mpelembe Rippers, and his players, Darius Mulenga, Isaac Chiduma and Tension Mukaili, were banned after beating referee Emmanuel Simbeye following a goalless draw with Ndola Wanderers in Chingola, in July. The club will also lose six points at the end of the season.

WEST AFRICA

THE entire executive of the Burkina Faso Football Federation have been fired after the country's failure to win a single point in the recently concluded World Cup qualifiers.

Energie beat Entente Force Armee in the Cup Final in Benin, winning 9-8 on penalties. The republic's international goalkeeper, 26-year-old Omer Houeto, of Dragons Oueme, has died in a car crash near Kilibo.

AS Douanes edged out Jeanne d'Arc by one point to win the Senegalese championship.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Salaheddine Bassir

Rising African star raising eyebrows

Club Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
Country Morocco
Born September 5, 1972, in Casablanca
Previous clubs Raja Casablanca, Al Hilal (Saudi Arabia)
International debut 1995, v Cameroon
International caps 16 (10 goals)
Honours Moroccan League 1995; Moroccan Footballer of the Year 1995; Asian Cup-winners Cup 1996; Asian Super Cup 1996

SALAHEDDINE Bassir is among the bright new stars emerging from Africa, having just signed for Spain's Deportivo La Coruna. Ten goals in 16 games for Morocco on the march to both next year's African Nations Cup and World Cup finals mean that he will be keenly watched in Burkina Faso and France.

His goalscoring spree has been one of the reasons behind the long-standing unbeaten run by the Lions of the Atlas, which stretches back to March last year. He finished as the joint leading scorer in the qualifiers for the African Nations Cup and played a leading part in Morocco's effortless march to France.

Bassir's performance has been rewarded with a high-profile move to Deportivo, but his chances of a first-team place are going to be slim in a team where Brazilian Djalminha was the big summer buy and where Bebeto has just gone back for another spell in Spanish football.

Born in Casablanca, Bassir rose to prominence with local club Raja, who have a fine pedigree. He helped the club to the League title in 1995 and helped himself to the mantle of Morocco's top scorer and Footballer of the Year. He also won his first full cap while with the club, as a substitute in a friendly at home to Cameroon in 1995, but had to wait until Henri Michel took over as coach in January last year before claiming a second cap and a regular place in the team.

At the same time, the petrodollars of Saudi football came calling and with special permission from Morocco's football-mad King Hassan II, Bassir was allowed to leave for Al Hilal in Riyadh.

During a single season with the Saudi club, he helped them win the Asian Cup-winners Cup and the Asian Super Cup, before joining Deportivo.

Bassir's goal against Ghana in Kumasi, in January, set the Moroccans on the road to France and effectively eliminated the Black Stars from the qualifying competition. He struck again in Casablanca, against Egypt, to virtually assure his country of a place in the Nations Cup finals.

Mark Gleeson

Crossword

Win a signed pair of *UHLSPORT* goalkeeping gloves

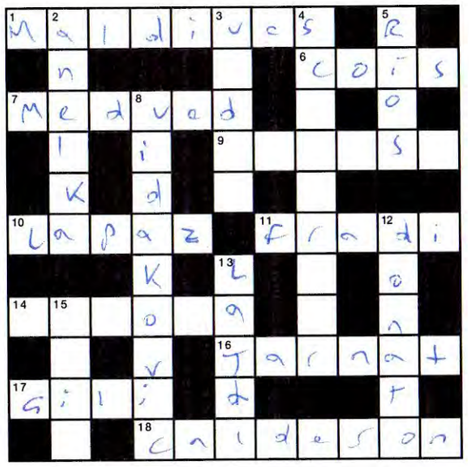
We've teamed up leading Continental sportswear company Uhlsport to offer another fantastic first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after November 1, will win a pair of goalkeeper gloves signed by England and Blackburn's Tim Flowers. Five runners-up will each win an exclusive *WORLD SOCCER* sweatshirt.
SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: **NOVEMBER CROSSWORD, *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford St, London SE1 9LS.**

CLUES ACROSS
1 .....World Cup opponents despatched 17-0 by Iran in June (8)
6 .....Fiorentina's former Torino and Italy U-21 midfielder (4)
7 .....Standard's Belgium defender - a summer recruit from Brugge (6)
9 .....Club reigning again as champions in the United Arab Emirates (2,4)
10 .....City which stages the 1997 Copa America final (2,3)
11 .....Familiar name long associated with Hungary's Ferencvaros (5)
14 .....Italy's Euganeo Stadium club (6)
16 .....Karlsruhe man who moved with Fink to Bayern Munich (6)
17 .....Coach who followed Stambouli into France's Velodrome (4)
18 .....Napoli forward newly recruited from Independiente (8)

CLUES DOWN
2 .....17-year-old PSG forward whisked off to Arsenal by Arsene Wenger (6)
3 .....Youthful ex-Karabukspor defender of Galatasaray and Turkey (5)
4 .....Australian 'keeper in England with Bradford and Middlesbrough (9)
5 .....Real Betis and Spain defender whose father, Eusebio, was also capped... (4)
8 .... and former Red Star libero also lured to the Benito Villamarin (9)
12 .....Brazilian-born Atletico and Depor midfielder capped by Spain (6)
13 .....Czech midfielder in Schalke's UEFA Cup final triumph (5)
15 .....Galatasaray's Turkish international forward formerly with Zeytinburnu (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION
ACROSS: 2.Casiragahi 6.Smuda 7.Golac 9.Acosta 10.Sion 12.Dosu 14.Penska 17.Serra 18.Szabo 19. Chilavert
DOWN: 1.Laslandes 2.Couto 3.Sparta 4.Riga 5.Galli 8.Cantatore 11.Belsue 13.Sergi 15.Start 16.Rada

OCTOBER WINNERS
1st Prize Braham Barnett, Manchester, England.
Runners-Up: Daniel Tunde, London; Mervyn Baker, Bristol; Colin Maclean, Isle of Lewis, Scotland; Jonathan Kift, Cardiff, Wales; Ian Riddoch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.



NAME

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Diary September 1997

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ARGENTINA: Guillermo Coppola, Diego Maradona's agent, says the veteran may have tested positive for cocaine because he had been given a spiked drink.
ENGLAND: New calls are made for goal-line cameras after Bolton are denied an apparent goal against Everton.
HOLLAND: Patrick Kluivert is reported certain to play in Saturday's World Cup qualifying match against Belgium despite controversy over his criminal record.
KENYA: National coach Reinhard Fabisch is suspended for "absconding from duty and sabotage" as the Kenyan FA responds to elimination from the African Nations Cup and the World Cup.
LIBERIA: Sports Minister Francois Massaquoi attacks the national team – with the exception of George Weah – after failure in the World Cup qualifiers.
YUGOSLAVIA: Slobodan Santrac recalls skipper Dragan Stojkovic of Grampus Eight and Real Madrid's Predrag Mijatovic for the World Cup qualifier with Slovakia.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

ARGENTINA: National coach Daniel Passarella rejects reports of a row with Gabriel Batistuta and says the Fiorentina striker is certain of a place at next year's World Cup – assuming Argentina qualify.
BRAZIL: Mario Zagallo completes his squad for the friendly against Ecuador by calling up home-based players to cover the absences of the likes of Ronaldo.
DENMARK: Brian Laudrup, recovered from a recent bout of chicken pox, is back in Denmark's squad to face Croatia.
EGYPT: FIFA says three members of its executive committee will rule "soon" on the dispute over the transfer fee Inter must pay Barcelona for Ronaldo. FIFA also decides: that cannabis should be included among banned substances; that the 2001 World Youth Cup should be held in Argentina and that Trinidad and Tobago will host the World Junior Cup that year; that Finland has registered its candidacy for the World Juniors in 2003; that the 1999 World Youth Cup will be in Nigeria, while the World Juniors that year will be in New Zealand. FIFA also decides to study whether Hong Kong may retain its status as an independent association following the transfer of the former British colony to China.
ENGLAND: Coach Glenn Hoddle drops West Ham defender Rio Ferdinand from his squad to face Moldova after the 18-year-old's drink-driving conviction... Leeds' Tomas Brolin reveals that he took a pay cut of £14,800-a-week to try to find a new football 'home' at Zurich, Parma and Zaragoza.
GERMANY: Borussia Monchengladbach captain Stefan Effenberg decides to stay with the club despite a recent row with coach Hannes Bongartz...Hansa Rostock sign South Africa striker Wilfried Mugeyi on trial...Borussia Dortmund sweeper Matthias Sammer resumes training for the first time since knee surgery.
HOLLAND: As predicted, coach Guus Hiddink names Milan's Patrick Kluivert and Winston Bogarde in his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Belgium.
ITALY: Manchester City fail in a bid for Pro Vercelli defender Michele Zeoli, a member of the Italian team who won gold at the World Student Games...Chelsea striker Gianfranco Zola is among five players from Italy's foreign legion named in the national squad for the World Cup tie against Georgia but Middlesbrough's unsettled Fabrizio Ravanelli is dropped.
NORWAY: Blackburn sign Norway centre-back Tore Pedersen from St Pauli of Hamburg...Manchester United's Ronny Johnsen pulls out of Norway's World Cup qualifer against Azerbaijan in Baku because of a thigh injury...Molde sell international midfielder Petter Rudi not to Newcastle, as had been expected, but to Southampton.
SCOTLAND: The SFA raises a storm by insisting it intends playing the World Cup tie against Belarus at Aberdeen despite this being the same day as the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales...Celtic star Darren Jackson undergoes brain surgery apparently successfully for hydrocephalus... Rangers join the transfer pursuit of West

Brolin...offered to take huge pay cut

Ham's Denmark defender Marc Rieper.
SPAIN: Midfielder Julen Guerrero is ruled out of the World Cup qualifier against Slovakia after injuring a knee in Bilbao's 3-1 weekend defeat by Espanyol...La Coruna insist, despite denials from Vitoria Bahia, that Bebeto will be rejoining them.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

ACTION: Rioting fans force a CONMEBOL Cup match between Sportivo Luqueno of Paraguay and Brazil's Vitoria to be abandoned midway through the second half with Vitoria 4-1 ahead...Boca Juniors ignore the absence of suspended Diego Maradona to beat South American champions Cruzeiro 1-0 in a Supercup tie.
AUSTRIA: Dietmar Kuhbauer pulls out of the World Cup qualifier against Sweden after breaking his collarbone in training.
BELGIUM: NAC Breda defender Bart De Roover withdraws from the World Cup qualifier against Holland because of injury.
BRAZIL: Mario Zagallo recalls midfielder Zinho, a member of the 1994 World Cup-winning team, for the first time in two years for the friendly against Ecuador.
EGYPT: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says he is confident that tighter administrative procedures mean there will be no age-limit cheating at the World Junior Cup finals in Egypt.
GERMANY: Midfielder Andy Moller is ruled out of the World Cup games against Portugal and Armenia because of a shoulder injury...Hamburg are close to purchasing Ghana striker Tony Yeboah from Leeds.
ITALY: Vicenza's Uruguay forward Marcelo Otero is sidelined for two months after breaking his right ankle against Sampdoria.
NEPAL: A £30,000 first prize is put up for the first South Asian Football Federation Championship in Katmandu.
SCOTLAND: The SFA decides, belatedly, to switch the World Cup tie against Belarus to Sunday.
SPAIN: More than 50 members of the foreign legion prepare to head off for World Cup duty despite a full League programme at the weekend.
UNITED STATES: National coach Steve Sampson says he has no illusions about the tough challenge being posed by Costa Rica in Sunday's World Cup qualifier – even though Costa Rica coach Juan Luis Hernandez has apologised for remarks about assassinating Bill Clinton.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ACTION: Pakistan beat Nepal 2-0 in the opening match of the first South Asian Football Federation Championship, in Katmandu...hosts Egypt beat Thailand 3-2 in the Opening Match of the World Junior (Under-17) Cup.
ALBANIA: Teuta midfielder Artan Koka, 25, is shot dead as he leaves the local stadium after training.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona's second dope-test sample also proves positive.
ENGLAND: Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham is ruled out of the World Cup qualifier against Moldova with cracked ribs...Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger demands the introduction of professional referees.
FRANCE: A FIFA commission fines Monaco winger Thierry Henry and Real Madrid £40,000 each for signing an illegal contract and using an unlicensed agent in Michel Basilevich. FIFA also fines Auxerre £40,000 for not respecting an agreement to transfer Nigeria's Taribo West to Betis...the pitch in the new Stade de France – venue of the Opening Game and Final of the 1998 World Cup – will be laid within a week, a month ahead of schedule.
ITALY: Alessandro Del Piero is ruled out of Italy's World Cup squad to face Georgia after damaging an eye during a Juventus training session.
SPAIN: Real Madrid are reported to be £79million in debt, an increase of £29million over the past year.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA delays a Ronaldo transfer fee decision for a further week.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

ACTION: Croatia beat Bosnia 6-1 in a European Under-21 championship qualifier ...USM Algiers beat Orlando Pirates 2-1 in an African Champions League tie.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, despite insisting he had not taken any illicit substance, is ordered to appear before the AFA's disciplinary committee after testing positive for drugs.
AUSTRALIA: The 95,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground is chosen to play host to Australia's final World Cup qualifying match in late November.
BELGIUM: Anderlecht admit having paid a bribe of £18,000 to Emilio Guruceta, the Spanish referee of their 1984 UEFA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest.
FRANCE: Paris St Germain striker Patrice Loko is reported to be making progress in his latest battle against depression at a Paris psychiatric clinic.
LIBERIA: The national squad is disbanded by Sports Minister Francois Massaquoi following the 5-0 World Cup qualifying defeat by Egypt.
UNITED STATES: DC United's Argentine defender Mario Gori and El Salvador forward Raul Diaz Arce plead innocent to charges of rape and kidnapping.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

ACTION: A busy day of World Cup qualifying action sees Norway become the ninth nation to book their place in France...Brazil demolish Austria 7-0 in the World Junior Cup.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, temporarily suspended for failing a doping test, returns to training with Boca Juniors.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

ACTION: Japan beat Uzbekistan 6-3 in their Group B opening match of Asia's World Cup final qualifying round...Deon Burton maintains Jamaica's hopes of reaching the 1998 World Cup finals by scoring the winning goal against Canada.
AUSTRIA: Herbert Prohaska includes goalkeeper Wolfgang Knaller and defender Martin Hiden in his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Belarus.
GERMANY: Berti Vogts adds Schalke defenders Olaf Thon and Thomas Linke to his 18-man squad for the World Cup qualifier against Armenia.
ITALY: Inter defender Massimo Paganin turns down Liverpool and Newcastle to join Bologna.
MEXICO: Spanish veteran Emilio Butragueno scores twice to inspire Atletico Celaya to a 4-3 win away to UAG.
PORTUGAL: The federation protests to FIFA over referee Marc Batta's controversial expulsion of Rui Costa – for dawdling on being substituted – in a World Cup qualifier against Germany.
UNITED STATES: Ecuador's Eduardo Hurtado scores a hat-trick as Los Angeles Galaxy thrash Tampa Bay 6-1.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

ACTION: Sri Lanka reach the semi-finals of the first South Asian Championship by beating Nepal 3-1 with a hat-trick from striker Roshan Perera.
BRAZIL: Tax investigators begin an inquiry into the financial affairs of Ronaldo and his multiplicity of agents.
CROATIA: Miroslav Blazevic drops four players, including goalkeeper Drazen Ladic, from the squad to play Denmark.
FRANCE: Coach Frederic Antoneti hits back at criticism that Bastia's early-

On the move...Paganin joined Bologna

season success is all down to luck... Paris St Germain's France Under-21 midfielder Bernard Allou negotiates a trial with Newcastle...Eric Cantona says he will make a brief return to action to play in a three-team tournament in Madrid on October 12 as part of the European Union's Year Against Racism.
ITALY: Ex-Internazionale defender Massimo Paganin, now with Bologna, says the huge influx of foreigners at Inter had bred resentment among Italian players.
SCOTLAND: Premier Division clubs say they intend to break away from the Scottish Football League (SFL) in a move which is, they say, aimed at bringing more money into the game and raising standards.
SOUTH AFRICA: National coach Clive Barker tells the federation he believes he is worth £14,000-a-month to remain as coach through to the World Cup finals.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA tells Belgian club Excelsior Mouscron that they must play their UEFA Cup first-round match against Metz at home in Belgium and not across the border in the French town of Villeneuve d'Basq, where they had played their preliminary round matches...FIFA bans Austrians Michael Konsel and Anton Pfeffer for one game for their dismissals during the World Cup qualifier against Sweden.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ACTION: Maldives draw 2-2 with favourites India to reach the semi-finals of the South Asian Championship.
ALBANIA: The new League campaign is postponed by a day because of mourning for Albanian-born Mother Teresa.
FRANCE: Nantes offer a trial to Zambia striker Denis Lota...Eric Cantona turns down an invitation to be guest of honour at a dinner to celebrate Manchester United's fourth League title in five seasons.
NORWAY: Suspended Erik Mykland is replaced by Rosenborg Trondheim's Jahn Ivar Jakobsen for the World Cup qualifier against Switzerland.
RUSSIA: KamAZ Naberezhniye Chelny are penalised six points for not paying a transfer fee on time to Baltika Kaliningrad for Yuri Shukanov. The punishment sends KamAZ to the bottom of the table.
SCOTLAND: The 'breakaway 10' propose an independent league, run under the auspices of the SFA, involving each club in a 36-game format starting from next season but with only one relegation place.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA rules that Inter should pay Barcelona an extra £1.2 million for Ronaldo, over and above the £18million already paid to buy out his contract. Bayern Munich are ordered to pay an extra £600,000 to Bilbao for defender Bixente Lizarazu in addition to the £2.7million buy-out fee.
TURKEY: Samsunspor sack German coach Horst Hrubesch after only five matches of the new season.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

ACTION: England beat Moldova to move nearer the World Cup finals...Bulgaria become the 10th country to qualify for France after beating Russia 1-0 in Sofia and are joined, from South America, by Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay.
BELGIUM: Anderlecht are relieved to learn from UEFA that the club "runs no risk of being excluded from European competition" because of the 1984 UEFA Cup match-fixing revelations.
ENGLAND: Sports Minister Tony Banks causes another ripple of controversy by suggesting that England may not be good enough to win the 1998 World Cup.
FRANCE: Ex-Ajax Amsterdam and Holland goalkeeper Stanley Menzo is dropped by Bordeaux after conceding 12 goals in six League matches.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich deny that youth coach Bjorn Andersson has been approached by the Swedish federation about succeeding Tommy Svensson as national manager.
PORTUGAL: Champions Porto beat Cup holders Boavista 1-0 in the second leg of Portuguese Supercup but Boavista win 2-1 on aggregate.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ACTION: India beat Pakistan 2-0 to reach the South Asian Championship Final... Spain thrash New Zealand 13-0 in the World Junior Cup in Egypt.
ENGLAND: The FA says at least 7,000 fans will be going to the World Cup showdown with Italy in Rome.
FRANCE: Nantes sell goalkeeper Dominique Casagrande to Spanish second division side Sevilla for £500,000.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says German internationals deserve a 10-fold pay rise from the current match fee of £1,300.
ITALY: The honeymoon ends for national coach Cesare Maldini as he is blamed for Italy's disappointing 0-0 draw in Georgia.
SPAIN: The players' union is furious after the federation bans Zaragoza striker Pier Luigi Cherubino for six games and fines him a record £27,000 after his weekend expulsion for a foul on Oviedo midfielder Roberto Pompei.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

ACTION: UAE beat Kazakhstan 4-0 in their Asian World Cup qualifier.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona wins the right to carry on playing League football pending a disciplinary inquiry into his latest dope-test failure.

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Diary

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BRAZIL: Edmundo sets a national championship record with six goals in Vasco's 6-0 victory over Uniao Sao Joao.
CHILE: Top clubs Universidad Catolica and Colo Colo say they will field youth teams on Sunday to beat a strike by the players' union.
FRANCE: Nantes city council says it will sell £1million-worth of shares in the club to try to resolve Nantes' financial problems.
ITALY: Sampdoria threaten to drop Christian Karembeu for the entire season because of his ongoing transfer dispute.
RUSSIA: Opposition MPs blame the government for the national team's failure to qualify automatically for France 98.
SCOTLAND: Celtic buy Denmark defender Marc Rieper from West Ham for £1.4million.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ACTION: China suffer a major setback in their World Cup campaign as they go down 4-2 at home to Iran…India beat Maldives 5-1 in the South Asian Championship Final.
BULGARIA: The League match between Dobrudzha Dobrich and Lokomotive Sofia is abandoned after 60 minutes when Dobrudzha president Stefan Kolev orders his players off the pitch because "he feared for the safety of the referee" at the hands of the club's angry fans.
SPAIN: Zaragoza midfielder/defender Jesus Garcia Sanjuan moves to England on a three-month loan to Wolves.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ACTION: Jamaica beat Costa Rica 1-0 in a CONCACAF World Cup qualifying match with another decisive goal from Deon Burton, while El Salvador thrash Canada 4-1. In Asia, Saudi Arabia beat Kuwait 2-1…Germany and Brazil reach the semi-finals of the World Junior Cup…in Argentina, Diego Maradona receives a standing ovation as he returns for Boca Juniors – converting a penalty in a 2-1 win over Newell's Old Boys…in Germany, a hat-trick by Olaf Marschall helps promoted Kaiserslautern beat Stuttgart 4-3 to regain top spot…in Holland, Feyenoord draw 1-1 with champions PSV…ex-Italy international Pietro Vierchowod makes his League debut for Piacenza at the age of 38 against Vicenza. Ronaldo claims his first goal in Italy in Inter's 4-2 win at Bologna.
AUSTRALIA: Croatia Zagreb striker Mark Viduka is recalled to the national squad for the friendly against Tunisia.
CHILE: Universidad Catolica beat Colo Colo 4-1, to stay four points clear at the top, as the clubs beat a players' strike by the use of youth teams.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ACTION: Spain beat hosts Egypt 2-1 and Ghana beat Oman 4-1 to reach the semi-finals of the World Junior Cup. Oman coach Mubarak Sultan complains that some of Ghana's players "look too old".
BRAZIL: Sports Minister Pele presents his bill aimed at cleaning up domestic soccer to his Congress.
ENGLAND: The FA says it intends to press the cause of goal-line cameras with FIFA…millionaire chairman Sir John Hall announces he is to retire from the Newcastle United board at the club's annual meeting in December.
GREECE: Sheffield United protest to the English FA that Panathinaikos are ignoring the Bosman ruling in refusing to release midfielder Dmitris Marcos.

FA charge...Bruce Grobbelaar

ITALY: Middlesbrough's disaffected striker Fabrizio Ravanelli opens talks with Milan over a possible transfer.
SCOTLAND: Hearts become the latest club to offer a loan lifeline to Leeds misfit Tomas Brolin.
SPAIN: Valencia dismiss coach Jorge Valdano a day after he blundered over his foreigners – meaning the team had to play the last 30 minutes of their weekend game with only 10 men. Assistant Jose Manuel Rielo steps in as caretaker…uncapped Atletico Madrid defenders Carlos Aguilera and Santi Denia are included in an 18-man Spain squad to face Slovakia in the World Cup qualifiers.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ACTION: Celtic and Liverpool draw 2-2 in their UEFA Cup first round first leg tie.
ENGLAND: Former Nottingham Forest players say they will sue Anderlecht for £1.5million over the controversial, 'fixed' 1984 UEFA Cup semi-final.
FRANCE: Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement says the government will decide on a "case by case" basis whether to maintain perimeter fencing at the 10 World Cup venues.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich midfielder Mario Basler complains that national boss Berti Vogts is being unfair to him because "he has never been happy with me so far, no matter how well I play"…Adidas expands its sportswear interest by buying the French company Salomon.
PORTUGAL: Speculation grows that Barcelona general manager Bobby Robson is top target for Benfica.
RUSSIA: Tax investigators demand several hundreds of thousands of pounds from non-playing members and officials of the national squads which reached the finals of the 1994 World Cup and 1996 European Championship.
SLOVAKIA: Jan Kozak resigns as coach to Kosice on the eve of the Champions League tie against Manchester United.
SPAIN: Vicente Cantatore is sacked by Valladolid.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ACTION: The Champions League group stage opens with Newcastle's 3-2 win over Barcelona and Juventus' 5-1 thrashing of Feyenoord.
ENGLAND: German researcher Werner Franke reveals more details about doping in the former East Germany.
FRANCE: Jean-Pierre Papin says he may miss Bordeaux's UEFA Cup return against Aston Villa because of forthcoming medical treatment in the United States for his seven-year-old daughter Emily.
GERMANY: Berti Vogts says Bayern Munich's Oliver Kahn will be Germany's goalkeeper against Albania.
ITALY: Promoted Lecce sign Austria defender Michael Hatz from Reggiana of Serie B for £800,000…Fabrizio Ravanelli suggests he would take a pay cut to join Milan…Torino deny reports they want to buy Gianluca Vialli from Chelsea.
SCOTLAND: Hibernian chairman Lex Gold says a British Cup would be high on the agenda of a new Scottish premier league.
SWITZERLAND: Romania climbs nine places to third in the latest FIFA rankings.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ACTION: In the Cup-winners Cup, favourites Chelsea struggle to beat Slovan Bratislava 2-0…in the semi-finals of the World Junior Cup, Brazil beat Germany 4-0 and Ghana beat Spain 4-2 amid further 'over-age' accusations.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he may retire soon to go to live in Cuba…five players are sent off by top referee Javier Castrilli in the Avellaneda derby – Independiente eventually defeating Racing Club 2-0.
CHILE: The players' union say the strike will continue until sacked players are reinstated by Coquimbo Unido and Osorno.
ENGLAND: Goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, acquitted of match-fixing, are charged by the FA with breaking betting rules…Arsenal's Ian Wright escapes with only a warning over an end-of-match fracas at Leicester.
FRANCE: World Cup tickets for the opening game featuring holders Brazil and eight games from the quarter-finals to the final go on sale to French residents.
GERMANY: Leverkusen captain Jens Nowotny is revealed to have broken his left foot in Wednesday's 1-0 victory over Liersе in the Champions League.
SOUTH AFRICA: Clive Barker accepts half the salary he originally demanded to lead the national team to the World Cup next June. His new one-year contract is worth £7,000 a month.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

ACTION: Iran and Saudi Arabia draw 1-1 in their World Cup Asian zone Group A second round qualifier.
BELGIUM: Angry Anderlecht fans storm on to the pitch and hold up their side's 2-1 home defeat by Mouscron for 10 minutes in a protest over the match-fixing revelations.
BULGARIA: Ivan Slavkov is re-elected president of the federation.
ENGLAND: Newcastle and England striker Alan Shearer has the pin and plaster cast removed from his injured ankle and is told he is recovering well.
FRANCE: Monaco players and coaching staff hold a crisis meeting amid reports that president Jean-Louis Campora is considering offering Jean Tigana's coaching job to Johan Cruyff or Jean-Claude Suaudeau…France goalkeeper Bernard Lama is negotiating with Scottish champions Rangers…Marseille enquire after France striker Nicolas Ouedec of Spanish club Espanyol.
GERMANY: Tony Yeboah, whose move from Leeds to Hamburg is being held up because the Ghanaian striker owes German tax, is confident the deal will go through.
HOLLAND: Ajax and Feyenoord ban each other's fans from their stadia in a bid to check hooliganism.
SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa invite England to play a friendly international in May.
SPAIN: Ex-Fiorentina manager Claudio Ranieri is new boss of Valencia.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

ACTION: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan draw 1-1 in their World Cup qualifier…in Holland, Belgium striker Gilles de Bilde scores twice as PSV Eindhoven beat Sparta Rotterdam 4-2…in Portugal, more depression for Benfica as they lose 3-1 to Rio Ave…in Russia, Spartak Moscow go top after winning 5-3 at Rostov.
BELGIUM: Fan violence spreads as Antwerp fans invade the pitch during a 5-2 defeat at Westerlo.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

ACTION: Brazil win the World Junior (Under-17) Cup, beating defending champions Ghana 2-1. In the third place play-off, Spain defeat Germany 2-1…in Brazil, angry Fluminense fans turn their backs – literally – on their team during the closing stages of a 3-0 defeat by Sport Recife…in England, Arsenal move up to second place after beating Chelsea 3-2 at Stamford Bridge with a late goal from Nigel Winterburn…in France, Victor Ikpeba scores twice as champions Monaco restore some pride with a 2- 0 win at Montpellier…Ajax maintain their 100 per cent Dutch League record by winning 4-1 at NEC Nijmegen…Youri Djorkaeff scores a controversial late winner as Internazionale beat Fiorentina 3-2 to seize top place in Serie A.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona plays 89 minutes for Boca Juniors in a 2-1 win over San Lorenzo – then changes his mind about making it the last game of his career.
BELGIUM: The federation demands tough action from the courts over the weekend pitch invasions.
ENGLAND: Portsmouth manager Terry Fenwick says Fitzroy Simpson and Paul Hall are being distracted from League duties by Jamaica's World Cup bid.
PORTUGAL: Benfica sack coach Manuel Jose, appointing Mario Wilson as caretaker.

Georgians surprise Italians in Georgia...

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

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Albania - Armenia (3-0, Sep 6), N Ireland (1-0, Sep 10)
Argentina - Chile (1-2, Sep 10)
Armenia - Albania (3-0, Sep 6), Germany (4-0, Sep 10)
Austria - Sweden (1-0, Sep 6), Belarus (0-1, Sep 10)
Azerbaijan - Norway (0-1, Sep 6), Hungary (3-1, Sep 10)
Bangladesh - India (3-0, Sep 7)
Belarus - Scotland (4-1, Sep 7), Austria (0-1, Sep 10)
Belgium - Holland (3-1, Sep 6)
Bolivia - Paraguay (2-1, Sept 10)
Bosnia - Croatia (3-2, Sep 6), Slovenia (1-0, Sep 10)
Brazil - Ecuador (4-2, Sept 10)
Bulgaria - Russia (1-0, Sept 10)
Canada - Jamaica (1-0, Sep 7), El Salvador (4-1, Sep 14)
Chile - Argentina (1-2, Sep 10)
China - Iran (2-4, Sep 13)
Colombia - Venezuela (1-0, Sep 10)
Costa Rica - Jamaica (1-0, Sep 14)
Croatia - Bosnia (3-2, Sep 6), Denmark (3-1, Sep 10)
Cyprus - Luxembourg (1-3, Sep 7)
Czech Republic - Malta (0-1, Sep 24)
Denmark - Croatia (3-1, Sep 10)
Ecuador - Brazil (4-2, Sept 10)
El Salvador - Canada (4-1, Sep 14)
England - Moldova (4-0, Sept 10)
Georgia - Italy (0-0, Sep 10), Moldova (0-1, Sep 24)
Germany - Portugal (1-1, Sep 6), Armenia (4-0, Sep 10)
Holland - Belguim (3-1, Sep 6)
Hungary - Azerbaijan (3-1, Sep 10)
Iceland - India - Bangladesh (3-0, Sep 7), Maldives (2-2, Sep 9), Romania (4-0, Sep 10)
India - Pakistan (2-0, Sep 11), Maldives (5-1, Sep 13)
Iran - China (2-4, Sep 13), Saudi Arabia (1-1, Sep 19)
Italy - Georgia (0-0, Sep 10)
Jamaica - Canada (1-0, Sep 7), USA (1-0, Sep 7),
Costa Rica (1-0, Sep 14)
Japan - Uzbekistan (6-3, Sep 7), UAE (0-0, Sep 19)
Kazakhstan - UAE (4-0, Sep 12), Uzbekistan (1-1, Sep 20)
Kuwait - Saudi Arabia (2-1, Sep 14), Qatar (0-2, Sep 19)
Lithuania - Rep Ireland (1-2, Sep 10), Poland (2-0, Sep 24)
Luxembourg - Cyprus (1-3, Sep 7)
Maldives - India (2-2, Sep 9), Sri Lanka (2-1, Sep 10), India (5-1, Sep 13)
Malta - Czech Republic (0-1, Sep 24)
Moldova - England (4-0, Sept 10)
Nepal - Pakistan (0-2, Sep 4), Sri Lanka (1-3, Sep 8)
Northern Ireland - Albania (1-0, Sept 10)
Norway - Azerbaijan (0-1, Sep 6), Switzerland (5-0, Sep 10)
Pakistan - Nepal (0-2, Sep 4), India (2-0, Sep 11),
Poland - Lithuania (2-0, Sep 24)
Spain - Slovakia (1-2, Sep 24)
Sri Lanka (1-0, Sep 13)
Paraguay - Bolivia (2-1, Sept 10)
Peru - Uruguay (2-1, Sept 10)
Portugal - Germany (1-1, Sep 6)
Qatar - Kuwait (0-2, Sep 19)
Rep Ireland - Lithuania (1-2, Sep 10)
Romania - Iceland (4-0, Sep 10)
Russia - Bulgaria (1-0, Sept 10)
San Marino - Turkey (5-0, Sep 10)
Saudi Arabia - Kuwait (2-1, Sep 14), Iran (1-1, Sep 19)
Scotland - Belarus (4-1, Sep 7)
Slovakia - Yugoslavia (1-1, Sep 10), Spain (1-2, Sep 24)
Slovenia - Bosnia (1-0, Sept 10)
Sri Lanka - Nepal (1-3, Sep 8), Maldives (2-1, Sep 10), Pakistan (1-0, Sep 13)
Sweden - Austria (1-0, Sep 6), Latvia (1-0, Sep 10)
Switzerland - Norway (5-0, Sep 10)
Turkey - San Marino (5-0, Sep 10)
UAE - Kazakhstan (4-0, Sep 12), Japan (0-0, Sep 19)
Uruguay - Peru (2-1, Sep 10)
Uzbekistan - Japan (6-3, Sep 7), Kazakhstan (1-1, Sep 20)
USA - Jamaica (1-0, Sep 7)
Venezuela - Colombia (1-0, Sep 10)
Yugoslavia - Slovakia (1-1, Sep 10)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Sep 4 - Katmandu - S Asian Chp
Nepal 0
Pakistan 2 (Muhammad Nauman 28, Muhammad Ijaz 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Sep 6 - Yerevan - WC qual
Armenia 3 (Vardanyan 60, Assaturyan 82, Avalyan pen 88)
Albania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Radovan (Yug)
Armenia: Berezovsky - Dvsepian, Vardanian, Nazarian, Krbashian, Arthur Petrosian (Yesayan 39), Mkhitarian, Sarkisian (Akop Ter-Petrosian 46), Avalian, Mikaelian (V Avetisian 84), Asadurian.
Albania: Strakosha - Tole, Shulku, Jumba, Vata, Dayu, Pecho (Fakig 78), Hajy (Mema 82), Kola, Rakly, Tare (Fortuzy 84).

Sep 6 - Vienna - WC qual
Austria 1 (Herzog 76)
Sweden 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Sp)
Austria: *Konsel - Cerny, Schottel, *Pfeffer, Feiersinger, Mahlich, Vastic (Stoger 66), Pfeifenberger, Polster, Herzog (Wohlfahrt 82 in goal), Prilasnig.
**Konsel sent off, 82min; *Pfeffer sent off, 41min.*
Sweden: Ravelli - *Nilsson, Patrik Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark, Alexandersson, Zetterberg, Mild (Blomqvist 55), Thern, Dahlin, Kennet Andersson.
**Nilsson sent off, 69min.*

Sep 6 - Baku - WC qual
Azerbaijan 0
Norway 1 (T A Flo 43)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000
Azerbaijan: Zhidkov - Gasumov, Agaev, Abouchov (Kerimov 68), Gorbanov, Guliev, Lichkin (Musayev 78), Gouseinov (Rzachev 78), Sirksaev, Suleimanov.
Norway: Grodas - Eggen, Berg, Bjornebye, Rudi, Mykland, Rekdal (Skammelsrud 74), Solbakken, Strandli (Halle 46), T A Flo, J Flo (Odd Inge Olsen 82).

Sep 6 - Zagreb - WC qual
Croatia 3 (Bilic 27, Maric 40, Boban 80)
Bosnia 2 (Ladic og 18, Salihamidzic 55)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Scot)
Croatia: Ladic - Jarni, Simic, Stimac, Juric, Bilic, Maric (Erceg 73), Cvitanovic (Jurcic 67), Suker, Boban, Boksic (Asanovic 46).
Bosnia: Dedic - Repuh (Dadic 52), Jasarevic, Besirevic, Konjic, Varesanovic, Halilovic (Zeric, 77), Mujcin (Bolic 46), Demirovic, Salihamidzic, Baljic.

Sep 6 - Berlin - WC qual
Germany 1 (Kirsten 81)
Portugal 1 (Pedro Barbosa 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 75,800
Germany: Kopke - Reuter (Babbel 46), Heinrich (Wosz 79), Kohler, Helmer, Ziege, Nowotny, Basler, Klinsmann, Haessler, Bierhoff (Kirsten 70).
Portugal: Silvino - Beto, Helder, Oceano, Texeira, Paulo Sousa, Figo, Joao Pinto (Sergio Conceicao 77), Barbosa, Rui Costa*, Paulinho Santos.
**Rui Costa sent off, 62min.*

Sep 6 - Rotterdam - WC qual
Holland 3 (Stam 32, Kluivert 53, Bergkamp 84)
Belgium 1 (Staelens 67pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000
Holland: Van der Sar - F de Boer, R de Boer (Winter 71), Reiziger, Cocu, Numan (Bogarde 71), Stam, Jonk, Seedorf (Van Bronckhorst 87), Bergkamp, Kluivert.
Belgium: De Wilde - Albert, Crasson (Genaux 46), Van Mier, Vidovic, Scifo, Staelens, Van der Elst, Van Kerckhoven, E Mpenza (G Schepens 87), Luis Oliveira.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Sep 7 - Tokyo - WC qual
Japan 6 (Miura 5, 24, 68, 81, Nakata 40, Jo 45)
Uzbekistan 3 (Shkvyrin 57, Fyodorov 70, Shatskikh 76)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 54,000

Sep 7 - Luxembourg - WC qual
Luxembourg 1 (Amodio 7)
Cyprus 3 (Papayassiliou 6, I Ioannou 55, 79)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000
Luxembourg: Koch - Amodio, Weis, Lamborelle, Vanek, Saibene, Hellers, Cardoni, Groff, Thill, Langers (Theis 67).
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - Costa, Pittas, Christodoulou, M Charalambous, P Panayiotis, Melanarkitis (Engomitis 57), I Ioannou, Papayassiliou (Kaiafas 81), Gogic (Okkas 85), Malekos.

Sep 7 - Aberdeen - WC qual
Scotland 4 (Gallacher 5, 56, Hopkin 54, 87)
Belarus 1 (Katchouro pen 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,160. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)
Scotland: Leighton - Burley, Boyd, Calderwood, Dailly, McKinlay, Gallacher (Dodds 85), Lambert, Durie, G McAllister (Hopkin 50), Collins.
Belarus: Shantolosov - Gerashchenko, Lavrik, Ostrovski, Dovnar, Jouravel (Tchernianki 65), Gerasimets (Balashov 78), Gurenko (Orlovski 52), Belkevich, Katchouro, Kulchii.

Sep 7 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp
India 3 (I M Vijayan 75, 78, Bhaichung Bhutia 88)
Bangladesh 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Sep 7 - Kingston - WC qual
Jamaica 1 (Burton 52)
Canada 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,000
Jamaica: Barrett - Malcolm, Dixon, Brown, Goodison, Gardener (Messam 68), Cargill, Simpson, Whitmore, Burton (Earle 76), Hall.
Canada: Forrest - Yallop, Fraser, Samuel, Watson, Miller, Radsinzki, Aguilar (Corazzin 73), Azinger, Bunbury (Kusch 65), Peschisolido.

Sep 7 - Portland, Oregon - WC qual
United States 1 (Ramos 79)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,396. Ref: Nieves (Ur)
US: Keller - Pope, Balboa, Dooley, Agoos, Stewart, Sorber, Reyna (Burns 68), Ramos, Wegerle (Preki 73), Lassiter (Jones 73).
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Wallace, Berry (Badilla 80), Wright, Marin, Madrigal, Paniagua (Campos 28), Guillen, Medford (Soto 75), Myers, Gomez.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Sep 8 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp
Nepal 1 (Deepak Amatya 74)
Sri Lanka 3 (Perera 16, 71, 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Sep 9 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp
Maldives 2 (Rasheed 65, Nizam 84)
India 2 (Bhutia 30, Ancheri 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Sep 10 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp semi-final
Maldives 2 (Shah Ismail 19, Nizam 89)
Sri Lanka 1 (K M Kabeer 21)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000

Sep 10 - Santiago - WC qual
Chile 1 (Salas 34)
Argentina 2 (Gallardo 25, Claudio Lopez 85)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 80,000
Chile: Tapia - Castanda, Reyes, Margas, Ponce, Musrri, Parraguez, Contreras, Sierra, Vega (Goldberg 80), Salas.
Argentina: Roa - Paz, R Ayala, Sensini, Veron, Almeyda, Simeone, Gallardo (Zanetti 86), Ortega, Claudio Lopez, Crespo (Berti 72).

Sep 10 - Barranquilla - WC qual
Colombia 1 (Cabrera 67)
Venezuela 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Pimentel (Brz)
Colombia: Calero - Cabrera, Bermudez, Ivan Ramiro Cordoba, Galeano, Serna (Pacheco), Bolano, Rincon, Valderrama, F Asprilla, De Avila (Aristizabal).
Venezuela: Dudamel - Garcia, Gonzalez, Echenique, Vallenilla, Ramos, Madriz, Urdaneta (Martinez), Rerez, Moran (Alexis Garcia), Juan Garcia (Johny Lucena).

Sep 10 - Lima - WC qual
Peru 2 (Palacios 59, Carty 61)
Uruguay 1 (Recoba 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000
Peru: Balerio - Marengo, Olivares, Pereda (Carranza 83), Jose Soto, Solano, Jayo, Maestri (Rivera 78), Palacios, Zegarra (Jorge Soto 46), Carty.
Uruguay: Siboldi - Hector Rodriguez, Gustavo Mendez, De los Santos, Romero, *Fonseca, Bengoechea (Lujambio 80), Aguirregaray (Salaregui 73), Tabare Silva, Diego Lopez, Recoba.
**Fonseca sent off, 85min.*

Sep 10 - Asuncion - WC qual
Paraguay 2 (Benitez 27, Gamarra 36)
Bolivia 1 (Suarez 57)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
Paraguay: Chilavert - Rivarola, Ayala, Gamarra, Arce, Suarez, Acuna, Enciso, Benitez, Baez (Rojas 75), Ovelar.
Bolivia: Trucco - Castillo, Oscar Sanchez, Pena, Sandy, Rimba, Soria, Ortiz (Coimbra 70), Blanco (Ramiro Castillo 46), Echeverry, Angola (JB Suarez 46).

Sep 10 - Zurich - WC qual
Albania 1 (Haxhi 69)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,600. **Ref:** Philippi (Lux)
Albania: Strakosha - Tole, Shulku, Xhumba, Vata, Fakaj, Peco (Halili 65), Haxhi (Gallo 83), Kola, Bushaj, Tare.
Northern Ireland: Wright - Hill, Griffin, McGibbon, Gillespie, Rowland (Mulryne 46), Horlock, Lomas, Lennon (Sonner 83), Quinn (McMahon 76), Dowie.

Sep 10 - WC qual
Belarus 0
Austria 1 (Pfeifenberger 50)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Mumenthaler (Swz)
Belarus: Satsunkevich - Gerashchenko, Shtanyuk, Ostrovsky, Dovnar (Orlovsky 76), Chernyavsky (Gerasimets 55), Kulchy, Gurenko, Belkevich, Kachuro, Romashchenko.
Austria: Wohlfahrt - Cerny, Schottel, Kogler, Feiersinger, Mahlieh, Vastic (Stoger 46), Pfeifenberger, Polster, Herzog (Hutter 71), Prilasnig.

Sep 10 - Sarajevo - WC qual
Bosnia 1 (Bolic 23)
Slovenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000
Bosnia: Dedic - Sabic, Jasarevic, Konjic, Varesanovic, Mujcin (Besirevic 69), Bolic (Dadic 89), Halilovic, Kodro (Demirovic 82), Salihamidzic, Baljic.
Slovenia: Boskovic - Galic, Krizan, Milanic, Istenic, Ceh, Novak, Seslar (Osterc 46), Gajser, Gliha (Gorsek 75), Rudonja.

Sep 10 - Sofia - WC qual
Bulgaria 1 (T Ivanov 55)
Russia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Krondl (Cz)
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Kishishev, Ivanov, Petkov, Ginchev, Yankov, Kostadinov (Iliev 72), Stoichkov (Petkov 84), Penev, Balakov, Lechkov.
Russia: Ovchinnikov - Kovtun, Nikiforov, Kosolapov (Khokhlov 46), Yanovsky, Tsveiba, Onopko, Kanchelskis, Alenichev, Kolyvanov, Simutenkov (Cheryshev 76).

Sep 10 - Copenhagen - WC qual
Denmark 3 (B Laudrup 17, M Laudrup 36, Molnar 41)
Croatia 1 (Suker 44)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 41,381. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Tobiasen, Schjonberg, Hogh, Heintze, Helveg, Allan Nielsen, *Frandsen, Molnar, M Laudrup, B Laudrup (Peter Moller 82).
*Frandsen sent off, 72min.
Croatia: Mrmic (Gabric 10) - Maric (Erceg 69), Juric, Jarni, Bilic, Stimac, Suker, Boban, Boksic, Asanovic, Soldo.

Sep 10 - Wembley - WC qual
England 4 (Scholes 28, Wright 46, 90, Gascoigne 81)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 74,102. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
England: Seaman - G Neville, P Neville, Batty, Campbell, Southgate, Beckham (Ripley 68, Butt 76), Gascoigne, Ferdinand (Collymore 83), Wright, Scholes.
Moldova: Romanenko - Fistikan, Stroenko, Tistimitanu, Kulibaba (Sukharev 53), Spyriu, Kurbeanu, Shishkin (Popovic 62), Rebeza, Micrev, Rogachev (Chebotarev 74).

Sep 10 - Tbilisi - WC qual
Georgia 0
Italy 0
Att: 60,000
Georgia: Togonidze - Shekiladze, Tskhadadze (Khaladze 20), Shelia, Chikhaidze, Kobiashvili, Archil Arveladze (Daraselia 78), Kavelashvili, Ketsbaja, Kinkladze (Gogichaishvili 65), Shota Arveladze.
Italy: Peruzzi - Nesta, Maldini, D Baggio, Cannavaro, Ferrara, Lombardo (R Baggio 68), Di Livio, Vieri (Casiraghi 65), Di Matteo, Zola (Inzaghi 80).

Sep 10 - Dortmund - WC qual
Germany 4 (Klinsmann 70, 84, Hassler 86, Kirsten 90)
Armenia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,000
Germany: Kopke - Tarnat (Bierhoff 66), Heinrich, Worns, Helmer, Thon, Kmetsch (Ricken 46), Wosz (Nowotny 80), Klinsmann, Hassler, Kirsten.
Armenia: Berezovski - Krbashyan (Hakob Ter-Petrosyan 62), Nazaryan, Hovsepyan, Avalyan (Sarkisyan 46), Vardanyan, Artur Petrosyan (Arsen Avetisyan 79), Shahgeldyan, Mkhitaryan, Assadourian, Mikaelyan.

Sep 10 - Budapest - WC qual
Hungary 3 (Klausz 8, Halmai 44, Illes 89)
Azerbaijan 1 (Lytehkin 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000

India take a title…Spain sure to qualify…glory for Asprilla…Beinlich sent off after scoring…eight goals in Zagreb, seven in Salzburg

Hungary: Safar - Mracsko, Halmai, Kereszturi, Egressy, Lipcsei, Dombi (B Illes 60), Urban, Z Kovacs (Orosz 59), Nyilas (Farkashazy 83), Klausz.
Azerbaijan: Jidkov - Agaev (Karimov 34), Gajsumov, Djabbarov, Lytehkin, Abusov, Gulijev, Rzajev (Husenov 61), Gourbanov, Sulemanov (Moussaev 78), Sirksajev.

Sep 10 - Vilnius - WC qual
Lithuania 1 (Zhiukas 51)
Rep Ireland 2 (Cascarino 17, 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Bikas (Gr)
Lithuania: Stauce - Ziukas, Kancelskis, Terreskinas (Slekys 76), Vainoras, Skerla, R. Zutautas, Ivanauskas, Mikalajunas (Tankauskas 46), Preiksaitis (Zvingilas 46), Narberkovas.
Rep Ireland: Given - G Kelly, Irwin, Harte, Cunningham, Keane, McAteer (Babb 83), McLoughlin, Connolly (Breen 89), Cascarino, Staunton.

Sep 10 - Oslo - WC qual
Norway 5 (Jakobsen 46, Solbakken 50, Eggen 65, Oestenstad 74, T A Flo 85)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,603
Norway: Grodaas - Halle (Haaland 83), Eggen, Berg, Inge Bjornebye, J Flo (Oestenstad 46), Rudi, Solbakken, T A Flo, Rekdal, Jakobsen (Strandli 71).
Switzerland: Lemann - Ohrel (Zambaz 53), Walker, Henchoz, Wolf, Yakin, *Fournier, Wicky, Kunz (Sesa 59), Sforza, Chapuisat (Vogel 68).
**Fournier sent off, 15 min.*

Sep 10 - Bucharest - WC qual
Romania 4 (Hagi 8, 81pen, Petrescu 40, Galca 65)
Iceland 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000
Romania: Stelea - Petrescu, Prodan, Dobos, Galca (Gabriel Popescu 72), Gheorghe Popescu, Munteanu, Craioveanu (Selymes 46), A Ilie (Barbu 66), Hagi, Dumitrescu.
Iceland: Gottskalksson - Gunnlaugur Jonsson, Hreidarsson, Sigurdur Jonsson, B B Gunnarsson, R Kristinsson, Adolfsson, Danielsson (Gudmundsson 82), Helgi Sigurdsson (Dadason 72), Thordur Gudjonsson, A Gretarsson (Thordvaldsson 81).

Sep 10 - Serravalle - WC qual
San Marino 0
Turkey 5 (Gobbi og 28, Arif 29, 81, Hakan 75, Hami 78)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 500
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Manzaroli, Vannucci, Gobbi, Valentini, Matteoni, N Bacciocchi, R Muccioli, Gualtieri, Francini, B Gasperoni.
Turkey: Rustu - Tayfun, Tayfur, Fatih, Alpay, Abdullah, Arif, Sergen (Mehmet 65), Hakan, Oguz, Saffet (Hami 46).

Sep 10 - Bratislava - WC qual
Slovakia 1 (Majoros 65)
Yugoslavia 1 (Mihajlovic 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500
Slovakia: Molnar - Kozak, Spilar, Tomaschek, Kinder, Tittel, Balis (Ujlaky 71), Zvara (Simon 85), Jancula, Kozlej (L Luhovy 84), Majaros.
Yugoslavia: Lekovic (Kocic 64) - Mirkovic, Djorkovic, Jokanovic, Djukic, Nadj (Drulovic 67), Jugovic, Savicevic, Mijatovic, Stojkovic, Mihajlovic.

Sep 10 - Stockholm - WC qual
Sweden 1 (Mattias Jonsson 87)
Latvia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,250
Sweden: Ravelli - Sundgren, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark, Alexandersson, Zetterberg, Mild (Blomqvist 75), Thern, Dahlin (Andreas Andersson 57), K Andersson (Mattias Jonsson 67).
Latvia: Karavajevs - Troickis, Astafjevs, Lobanovs, Blagonadezdins, Stepanovs, Ivanovs, Bleldelis, Rimkus (Jelisejevs 60), Babicevs (Stolcers 50), Pahars.

Sep 10 - Salvador, Bahia - intl friendly
Brazil 4 (Denilson 16, Dodo 27, 38, Emerson 73)
Ecuador 2 (Aguinaga 66, Maldonado 76)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 40,000
Brazil: Carlos Germano (Zetti 46) - Cafu (Russo), Junior Baiano (Cleber 70), Goncalves, Ze Roberto, Mauro Silva, Emerson, Rivaldo (Zinho 70), Denilson, Dodo, Anderson (Cristian 61).
Ecuador: Cevallos - Rivera, Montano, Tenorio, J De la Cruz, Blandon, Carabali (Valencia 46), Gavica (Aguinaga 55), Sanchez, Graziani (Maldonado 70), O De la Cruz (Coronel 46).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Sep 11 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp semi-final
India 2 (IM Vijayan 43, 78)
Pakistan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Sep 12 - Abu Dhabi - WC qual
United Arab Emirates 4 (Ali Hassan 18, Mohammed Obaid pen 48, Zuhair Bakhit 71, Khamis Saad 77)
Kazakzkstan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Unprasert Pirom (Thai)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Sep 13 - Dalian - WC qual
China 2
Iran 4
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000

Sep 13 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp Final
India 5 (Ancheri 9, Bhutia 15, I M Vijayan 19, 53, Amit Das 49)
Maldives 1 (Abdul Latheef 43)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 20,000

Sep 13 - Katmandu - South Asian Chp 3rd pl
Pakistan 1
Sri Lanka 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Sep 14 - Riyadh - WC qual
Saudi Arabia 2 (Fahd Muhalel 45, Yousef Thunaian 54)
Kuwait 1 (Bashar Abdullah 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Ali Bujusaim (UAE)

Sep 14 - Kingston - WC qual
Jamaica 1 (Burton 56)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000

Sep 14 - San Salvador - WC qual
El Salvador 4 (De Mello 15, Renderos 52, Cienfuegos 56, Diaz Arce 87)
Canada 1 (Bunbury 30)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000
El Salvador: Garcia - Hernandez, Vicevic, Martinez (Carcamo 21), Valencia, Cerritos (Rivera 75), Amaya, Renderos, Cienfuegos, Raul Diaz Arce, De Mello (Franco 61).
Canada: Forrest - Yallop, Watson, Samuel, Fraser, Desantis, Aguiar (Aunger 40), Corazzin (Berdusco 58), Peschisolido, Bunbury, Kush (Nash 75).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Sep 19 - Tehran - WC qual
Iran 1 (Karim Bagheri 63)
Saudi Arabia 1 (Ibrahim al-Swayed 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 110,000. **Ref:** Okada (Jpn)
Iran: Ahmad reza Abadzadeh - Mohammad Khakpour, Mohammad Ali Peirovani, Ali Akbar Ostad Asadi, Mehdi Mahdavi, Mehrdad Minavand, Ali Daei, Karim Bagheri, Alireza Mansourian, Hamid Rezi Estili, Ali Asghar Rousta.
S Arabia: Mohammed Doaye - Mohammed Khelaiwi, Abdullah Suleiman, Ahmad Madani, Ibrahim Sweid, Khalid Timawy, Sami Jaber, FahdMuhalel, Hossein Suleimani, Khaled Muwaled, Khamis Dowsiri.

Sep 19 - Doha - WC qual
Qatar 0
Kuwait 2 (Jassim al-Huwaidy 18, Bashar Abdullah 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Jamal Sharif (Syr)
Qatar: Yunis Ahmad - Dhahi Saad, Hisham Mubarak, Adel Mulla, Jaffal Rashid, JassimTamimi, Abdul Aziz Hasan, Zamel Kawari, Nasser Kamil, Adel Khamis, Mohammed al-Anizi.
Kuwait: Khaled al-Fadli - Mohammed Bunayan, Osama Hussein, Fawaz Bakhit, Abdul Aziz Hindi, Abdullah Wabran, Issam Sikkine, Badr Haji, Jamal Mubarak, Jassim al-Huwaidy, Bashar Abdullah.

Sep 19 - Abu Dhabi - WC qual
United Arab Emirates 0
Japan 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Mohammed Abdullah (Malaysia)
UAE: Mohsin Mussabeh - Mohammed Hamdoon, Hassan Suhail, Ismail Rashid, Munzir Ali, Ahmed Ibrahim, Adil Mohammed, Hassan Saeed, Jasim Al Dokhy, Zuhair Bakhit, Ali Hassan.
Japan: Kawaguchi - Ihara, Narahashi, Soma, Omura, Yamaguchi, Nakata, Akita, Jo, Miura, Nanami.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Sep 20 - Almaty - WC qual
Kazakhstan 1 (Baltiyev pen 84)
Uzbekistan 1 (Shatskikh 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Sep 24 - Valletta - WC qual
Malta 0
Czech Republic 1 (Bejbl 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000
Malta: Muscat - Giglio, Chetcuti, S Vella, Debono, D Camilleri, Agius (Sultana), Buhagiar (Turner), Suda, Brincat, Zahra (Galea).
Czech Rep: Srnicek - J Novotny, Lasota, Vicek, Sloncik, Svoboda, Nemec (Kozel), Lokvenc (Ulick), Smicer, P Kuka, Bejbl.

Sep 24 - Chisinau - WC qual
Moldova 0
Georgia 1 (Ketsbaia 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,000
Moldova: Romanenco - Fistican (Kirillov 64), Testimitenau, Culibaba, Gadamasciuc (Rebeja 55), Stroenco, *Curtinau, Popovici, Miterev (Cibotari 52), Rogaciov, Clescenco. **Curtinau sent off, 69min.*
Georgia: Togonidze - Lobjanidze, Shekiladze, *Koladze, Chikhradze, Kahokidze (Dzhamarauli 90), Nemsadze, Kavelashvili (Shelia 81), Ketsbaia, *Kinkladze, Archil Arveladze. ***Koladze sent off, 60 min; *Kinkladze sent off, 69 min.*

Sep 24 - Bratislava - WC qual
Slovakia 1 (Majoros 75)
Spain 2 (Kiko 47, Amor 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,667
Slovakia: Molnar - Kozak, Spilar, Tomaschek, Kinder, Tittel, Balis, Simon (Zvara 64), Jancula (Uljaky 85), Kozlej (L Luhovy 52), Majoros.
Spain: Zubizarreta - Ferrer (Aguilera 62), Rios, Alkorta, Nadal, Hierro, Sergi, Kiko (Oli 88), Luis Enrique, Raul, Alfonso (Amor 70).

Sep 24 - Olsztyn - intl friendly
Poland 2 (Kucharski 18, Kowalczyk 55)
Lithuania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Gp 1: Sep 5 (Osijek): Croatia 6 (Bule 20, 33, Zilic 23, Vugrinec 36, Juric 40, Leko 75) Bosnia 1 (Hota 10). Sep 5 (Sezana): Slovenia 1 (Bloudek pen 55) Greece 3 (Lymperopoulos 22, 36, Paraskevas 62). Sep 9 (Koge): Denmark 1 (Jorgensen 66) Croatia 0.

Gp 2. Sep 9 (Wycombe): England 1 (Hall 72) Moldova 0. Sep 10 (Rustavi): Georgia 2 (Kiknadze 59, Kebadze 64) Italy 0. Sep 23 (Chisinau): Moldova 0 Georgia 0.

Gp 3: Sep 9 (Szekesfehervar): Hungary 2 (Roth 4, Kovacs 21) France 4 (Trezeguet 9, 10, 17, Leroy 87). Sep 9 (Drammen): Norway 4 (Fermann 37, Karl Oskar Fjortoft 51, Iversen 60, Nyan 90) Switzerland 1 (Hakan Yakin 29).

Gp 4: Sep 5: Estonia 1 (Vahtramae 17) Latvia 0. Sep 5 (Tulln): Austria 0 Sweden 4 (Anders Svensson 42, 68, Joakim Persson pen 62, Cesar Pacha 86). Sep 9 (Minsk): Belarus 1 (Ostrikov 38) Austria 1 (Weissenberger 53). Sep 9 (Enkoping): Sweden 5 (Joakim Persson 6, pen 16, Osmanovski 12, 27, Daniel Andersson 35) Latvia 0.

Gp 5: Sep 9 (Sofia): Bulgaria 1 (G Ivanov 7) Russia 2 (Solomatin 53, Baharev 85).

Gp 6: Sep 9 (Trnava): Slovakia 0 Yugoslavia 1 (Ognjenovic 74). Sep 23 (Valletta): Malta 0 Czech Rep 5 (Hysky 11, Michael Nehoda 30, Holousek 77, Kolomaznik 85, 90). Sep 23 (Trnava): Slovakia 3 (Formanko 51, Janocko 56, Muzlaj 66) Spain 4 (Zarandona 36, 66, Victor 69, Roger 73).

Gp 7: Sep 5 (Den Haag): Holland 5 (Bruggink 20, 76, Wooter 39, 47, Makaay 78) Belgium 2 (Schops 19, 44). Sep 9 (Serravalle): San Marino 1 (Selva 88) Turkey 4 (Serdar 43, Nuri 46, Mustafa 61, Cetin 70).

Gp 8: Sep 5 (Hafnarjordur): Iceland (Thordarsson 27) Rep Ireland 0. Sep 9 (Alytus): Lithuania 2 (Fomenko 68, Bouitkus 70) Rep Ireland 1 (Gain 65). Sep 9 (Bucharest): Romania 4 (Lutu 7pen, Rosu 43, Tararache 63, Mihalcea 78) Iceland 0.

Gp 9. Sep 5 (Franfurt): Germany 1 (Schroth 1) Portugal 1 (Carlitos Cunha 57). Sep 9 (Solingen): Germany 7 (Michalke 3, 88, Bochtler 27, Ballack 41, Neuendorf 45, Wedau 90, Gerster 90) Armenia 0.

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st matchday (Sep 17)

Sparta Prague 0
Parma 0
Att: 17,846. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Sparta: Postulka - Repka, Svoboda, Cizek (Gabriel 46), Novotny, Lokvenc, Siegl (Obajdin 86), Hasek, Mistr (Laliik 71), Baranek, Nemecek.
Parma: Buffon - Ze Maria, Benarrivo, Sensini, D Baggio, M Crippa, Strada, Crespo (Maniero 80), Cannavaro, Chiesa, Thuram.

Galatasaray 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Chapuisat 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Sp)
Galatasaray: Volkan - Hakan Unsal, Fatih, Bulent K, Popescu, Umit (Arif 67), Tugay, Hagi, Ergun, Ilie, Hakan Sukur.
Dortmund: Klos - K Reinhardt, Feiersinger, Kohler, Julio Cesar, Lambert, Freund, Zorc, Heinrich, Herrlich, Chapuisat.

Kosice 0
Manchester United 3 (Irwin 30, Berg 61, Cole 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Kosice: Molnar - Spilar, Telek, Kozak, Janocko, Lubarsky (Rusnak 46), Kozlej (Faktor 77), Semenik, Zvara, Sovic, Kral.
Man Utd: Schmeichel - G Neville, Irwin, Pallister, Beckham (McClair 75), Butt, Cole, Poborksy, Keane, Scholes, Berg.

Juventus 5 (Del Piero 3, 11pen, Inzaghi 34, Zidane 63, Birindelli 80)
Feyenoord 1 (Van Gastel 57pen)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 24,500. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
Juventus: Peruzzi - Birindelli, Ferrara, Montero, Dimas, Conte, Deschamps, Zidane (Pessotto 71), *Di Livio, Inzaghi (Fonseca 81), Del Piero (Tacchinardi 59). **Di Livio sent off, 57min.*
Feyenoord: Dudek - Van Gobbel, Fraser, Picun (Connolly 68), Graff, Gastel, Sanchez, Van Bronckhorst, Cruz, Bosvelt, Korneev (Boateng 46).

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Jonk 40)
Kiev Dynamo 3 (Yuri Maximov 33, Rebrov 47, Shevchenko 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
PSV: Waterreus - Van der Weerden (Iwan 70; P Moller 77), Stam, Valckx, Numan, Petrovic, Jonk, Degryse (Nilis 53), Cocu, De Bilde, Zenden.
Kiev: Shovkovsky - Vashchuk, Golovko, Khatskevich (Belkevich 55), Kosovsky, Dmitrulin, Kalitvintsev, Maximov (Mikhailenko 77), Gusin (Bezhenar 72), Shevchenko, Rebrov.

Newcastle United 3 (Asprilla 22pen, 31, 49)
Barcelona 2 (Luis Enrique 73, Luis Figo 88)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 36,600. **Ref:** Collina (It)
Newcastle: Given - Watson, Albert, Barton, Beresford, Batty, Lee, Barnes (Ketsbaia 81), Tomasson (Peacock 77), Gillespie, Asprilla.
Barcelona: Hesp - Celades, Reiziger, Sergi, Nadal, De la Pena, Amunike (Ciric 46), Luis Figo, Rivaldo, Luis Enrique, Anderson (Dugarry 56).

Real Madrid (Panucci 4, Ze Roberto 38, Raul 43, Fernando Morientes 83)
Rosenborg (Mini Jakobsen 14)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 53,000. **Ref:** Vessiere (Fr)
Madrid: Canizares - Roberto Carlos, Karanka, Hierro, Panucci, Sanchis, Ze Roberto (Victor Sanchez 74), Seedorf, Raul, Mijatovic (Redondo 60), Suker (Morientes 60).
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Boergdolmo, Hoftun, Bragstad, Heggem, Berg, Skammelsrud, Strand, Jakobsen (Mayer 74), Rushfeldt (Boateng 60), Brattbakk.

Olympiakos 1 (Stelios Yannakopoulos 6)
FC Porto 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Olympiakos: Tochouroglou - Varesanovic, Karataidis, Anatolakis, Yannakopoulos, Niniadis, Alexandris (Dabizas 60), Ivic, Djordjevic, Passalis, Georgatos (Gogic 81).
Porto: Rui Correia - Paulinho Santos, Aloisio, Fernando Mendes, Sergio Conceicao, Rui Barros, Folha (Artur 60), Drulovic, Jardel, Joao Manuel Pinto (Barroso 33), Zahovic.

Bayern Munich 2 (Helmer 3, Basler 70)
Besiktas 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Bayern: Kahn - Matthaus, Helmer, Babbel, Basler (Lizarazu 87), Hamnn, Strunz, Scholl, Tarnat, Elber (Jancker 81), Rizitelli (Fink 52).
Beskitas: Fevzi - Rahim, Alpay, Recep, Erkan, Tayfur, Yankov, Ozdilek (Lechkov 72), Serdar (Emre 78), Oktay, Amokachi (Mustafa 80).

Paris SG 3 (Ngotty 28, Lukic og 51, Rai pen 81)
IFK Gothenburg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,189. **Ref:** Durkin (Eng)
PSG: Revault - Fournier (Guerin 78), Roche, Le Guen, Domi, Leroy (Algerino 70), Ngotty, Rai (Cisse 85), Gava, Maurice, Simone.
IFK: Ravelli - Olof Magnusson, Erlingmark, Lucic, M Nilsson, Landberg (Tetteh 57), Alexandersson, Pettersson, P Eriksson, Ekstrom (Karlsson 57), Robert Andersson.

Sporting Lisbon 3 (Oceano 3, Hadji 7, Leandro Machado 64)
Monaco 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swz)
Sporting: De Wilde - Abdeillah Saber, Marco Aurelio, Beto, Vinicius Silva Oceano, Lang (Cesar Ramirez 84), Pedro Martins, Hadji (Quim Berto 88), Pedro Barbosa (Afonso Martins 73), Leandro.
Monaco: Barthez - Diao, Dumas, Leonard, Pignol (Konjic 46), Da Costa (Ikpeba 46), Legwinski, Collins, Ali Benarbia, Spehar, Trezeguet.

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Beinlich pen 40)
Lierse 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Braschi (It)
Leverkusen: Heinen - Happe, Worns, Nowotny (Emerson 90), N Kovac (R Kovac 86), Kirsten (Rink 74), Meijer, Ramelow, Lehnhoff, Heintze, *Beinlich.
Beinlich sent off, 77min.
Lierse: Vande Walle - Serneels, Van Meir, Huistra (Scavone 80), Leen, Haagdoren, Hasenhuttl, Zdebel, Van Kerckhoven, Hofkens (Ven de Weyer 68), Eftevaag.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

1st rnd, 1st legs (Sep 18)

AEK Athens 5 (Kopitsis pen 37, 44, Katsavos 64, Kalitzakis 67, Marcelo 76)
Dinamo Daugapvils 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000

AIK Stockholm 0
NK Primorje 1 (Rudonja 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,100

APOEL Nicosia 0
Sturm Graz 1 (Spiteri 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Belshyna Bobruisk 1 (Khlebosolov pen 14)
Lokomotiv Moscow 2 (Loskov 49, Borodyuk 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000

Betis 2 (Alfonso 58, 72)
BVSC Budapest 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000

Chelsea 2 (Di Matteo 6, Granville 80)
Slovan Bratislava 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,067. **Ref:** Boggi (It)
Chelsea: De Goey - P Hughes, Leboeuf, Duberry, Granville, Petrescu, Di Matteo, Poyet, Wise, Zola, Vialli.
Slovan: Konig - Glonek, Sobana, Antalovic, Gunda, Pecko, Tomaschek, Novak (Timko 51), Hornyak, Kereszturi (Moder 80), Borisenko (Muzlay 63).

FC Copenhagen 3 (Todi Jonsson 17, Lars Hojer Nielsen 53, Tur 87)
Ararat Yereven 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,563

Germinal Ekeren 3 (Ervin Kovacs 17, Hofmans 57, Dauwe 71)
Red Star 2 (Ognjenovic 59, Stankovic 63)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,700

Hapoel Beersheba 1 (Benayoun pen 63)
Roda 4 (Van Houdt 15, 31, Torma 24, 34)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 6,500

IB Vestmannaeyjar 1 (Olafsson 39)
Stuttgart 3 (Bobic 9, 11, Akpoborie 69)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 3,000

Kocaelispor 2 (Erhan 41, Mosheou 45)
National Bucharest 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 17,500

NK Zagreb 3 (Lalic 44, Sopic 50, Baturina 52)
Tromso 2 (Stein Berg Johansen 56, Ole Martin Arst 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000

Nice 3 (Kohn 13, 48, Rol 79)
Kilmarnock 1 (Wright pen 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Sarvan (Tur)
Nice: Huc - Angan, Kartalija, Rol, Stefano, Angibeaud, Aulanier, Milinkovic, Savini (Aubameyang 75), Kohn, Vandecasteele.
Kilmarnock: Meldrum - MacPherson, *Baker, Montgomerie, McGowne, Mitchell, Findlay (O'Neill 84), Reilly, Nevin, Vareille (Roberts 81), Wright.
Baker sent off, 73min.

Slavia Prague 4 (Asanin 5, Vacha 14, Vagner 49, Labant 54)
Lucern 2 (Aleksandrov 6, Koilov 76)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 5,600

Vicenza 2 (Luiso 10, Ambrosetti 24)
Legia Warsaw 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 13,000

UEFA CUP

1st rnd, 1st legs (Sep 16)

AGF Aarhus 2 (Piechnik 18, Hallum 75)
Nantes 2 (Gourvennec 11, N'diaye 24)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 5,425

Atletico Madrid 2 (Juninho 69, Vieri pen 71)
Leicester 1 (Marshall 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Roy Helge Olsen (Nor)
At Madrid: Molina - Toni (Jose Mari 58), Andrei, Juninho, Vizcaino (Bejbl 64), Vieri, Lardin, Kiko, Geli, Kaminero (Pantic 77), Prodan.
Leicester: Keller - Walsh, Izzet, Lennon, Parker (Fenton 71), Heskey, Kaamark, Prior, Elliott, Marshall (Claridge 30), Guppy.

Bastia 1 (Pierre-Yves Andre 80)
Benfica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,000

Beitar Jerusalem 2 (Istvan Pishont 47, Stefan Saloi 50)
Club Brugge 1 (Nordin Jbari 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

Bordeaux 0
Aston Villa 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Amande Ancion (Bel)
Bordeaux: Rame - Gralak, Saveljic, Afanou, Musampa, Pavon, Luccin (Diabate 84), Grenet (Ferrier 73), Laslands, Wiltord, Papin (Diaware 84).
Villa: Bosnich - Nelson, Wright, Ehiogu, Staunton, Southgate, Taylor, Grayson (Curcic 53), Draper, Yorke, Collymore.

Celtic 2 (McNamara 53, Donnelly pen 74)
Liverpool 2 (Owen 6, McManaman 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 48,526. **Ref:** G Cesari (It)
Celtic: Goul - Boyd, Mahe, McNamara, Stubbs, Larsson, Burley, Blinker (O'Donnell 46), Donnelly, Hannah, Wieghorst.
Liverpool: James - Jones, Bjornebye, Kvarme, Wright, Matteo, McManaman, Ince, Riedle, Owen, Thomas.

Croatia Zagreb 4 (Saric 23, Viduka 41, Prosinecki 58pen, Cvitanovic 78)
Grasshopper 4 (Moldovan 20, 79, Mladinic og 62, Turkyilmaz, 65)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 35,000

Excelsior Mouscron 0
Metz 2 (Meyriei 21, Rodriguez 25)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 6,700

Internazionale 2 (Ronaldo 58, Ze Elias 71)
Neuchatel Xamax 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000

FC Jazz 0
1860 Munich 1 (Abedi Pele 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500

Karlsruhe 2 (Regis 14, Schroth 88)
Anorthosis Famagusta 1 (A Charalambous 36)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000

La Coruna 1 (Djalminha 87)
Auxerre 2 (Diomede 72, Guivarch 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,000

Lyon 4 (Kanoute 20, Linares 50, Carteron 63, Giuly 75)
Brondby 1 (Daugaard pen 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,000

MPKC Mozyr 1 (Kushnir 50)
Dinamo Tbilisi 1 (Mugzhiri 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,900

MTK Budapest 3 (Bela Illes 55, Preisinger 71, Lorincz 88)
Alania Vladikavkaz 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000

Maribor Teatanic 1 (Ceh 47)
Ajax 1 (Litmanen 66)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000

OFI Crete 3 (Papadopoulos 20pen, Kounenakis 57, Nioblias 85)
Ferencvaros 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,500

PAOK Salonika 1 (Franzeskos 61)
Arsenal 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Sp)
PAOK Saloniki: Mickopoulos - Olivares, Tasiopoulos, Kolobourds, Zafiriou, Zagorakis, Fratzeskos, Vrizas (Kapetanopoulos 59), Toursounidis, Nagbe (Velis 75), Zoumpouris.
Arsenal: Seaman - Dixon, Winterburn, Vieira, Bould, Adams, Wright, Anelka (Wreh 75), Overmars (Boa Morte 70), Parlour (Platt 70), Petit.

Rapid Vienna 1 (Freund 37)
Hapoel Petah-Tikva 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

Rotor Volgograd 2 (Burlachenko 45, Veretennikov 55)
Orebro 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,000

Salzburg 4 (Klausz 33, 53, Glieder 50, pen 64)
Anderlecht 3 (Iachtchouk 34, Goor 59, Stoica 80)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000

Sampdoria 1 (Boghossian 74)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Rios 19, Gonzalez 62)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,000

Schalke 2 (Goossens 7, 22)
Hajduk Split 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 53,250

Sion 0
Spartak Moscow 1 (Kechinov 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000

Steaua Bucharest 0
Fenerbahce 0
Att: 16,000

Strasbourg 2 (Baticle pen 45, pen 60)
Rangers 1 (Jorg Albertz pen 48)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Italy)
Strasbourg: Vencel - Raschke, Suchoparek, Okpara, Collet (Kinet 35), Arpinon (Miceli 12), Baticle, Conteh (Rabbah 77), M'Goghi, Dacourt, *Nouma. ***Nouma sent off, 78min.***
Rangers: Snelders - Porrini, Petric, Bjorklund, Vidmar (Andersen 70), Gattuso (Miller 46), McCall, Gascoigne, Albertz, Durie, Laudrup.

Trabzonspor 2 (Hami pen 23, Cetin 43)
Bochum 1 (Baluszynski 2)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000

Twente Enschede 0
Lillestrom 1 (Diallo pen 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000

Valladolid 2 (Juan Carlos Rodriguez 30, Edu 55)
Skonto 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000

Vitoria Guimaraes 0
Lazio 4 (Casiraghi 48, Fuser 62, Nedved 68, Nesta 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000

Vitesse Arnhem 2 (Curovic 32, Trustfull pen 80)
Braga 1 (Karoglan 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000
*Match delayed by floodlight failure

Widzew Lodz 1 (Bogusz 63)
Udinese 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

AUSTRIA

Saturday, August 30

SV Ried 3 (Angerschmid 2, Oerlemans 53, Wegrzyn 63)
Admira Wacker 1 (Aigner pen 49) Att: 7,000

Lustenau 1 (Koejoe 66)
FC Tirol 1 (Kirchler 77) Att: 11,000

Austria Wien 1 (Simon 85)
Grazer AK 0 Att: 5,000

Salzburg 1 (Jurcevic 42)
Linz 1 (Rosenegger 45) Att: 8,000

Sturm Graz 1 (Vastic 8)
Rapid Wien 0 Att: 15,000

Friday, September 12

Linzer ASK 4 (Kogler 17, 40, Weisenberger 26, Tangen 53)
Austria Wien 1 (Schiener 23) Att: 6,000

Saturday, September 13

Salzburg 5 (Kogler 2, Klausz 21, 57, Jurcevic 24, Amerhauser 60, Tiefenbach 87) Att: 8,000
Lustenau 1

FC Tirol 2 (Mayrleb 43, 74)
Admira Wacker 0 Att: 2,000

Rapid Wien 3 (Stumpf 43, 67, Purk 59)
SV Ried 0 Att: 6,000

Sturm Graz 2 (Radovic 31, Kocijan 81)
Grazer ASK 1 (Radovic 31) Att: 15,400

Saturday, September 20

Admira Wacker 1 (Aigner pen 88)
Rapid Wien 2 (Ipoua 3, 60) Att: 8,000

Lustenau 0
Grazer ASK 1 (Prinzen og 10) Att: 10,000

Austria Wien 2 (Gager 33, Simon 75)
Salzburg 1 (Prinzen og 10) Att: 6,000

SV Ried 1 (Glasner 69) Att: 6,000
Linzer ASK 4 (Weissenberger 25, Frigaard 38, 56, Ba 77)

Sturm Graz 2 (Hopfer 4, Schupp 50)
FC Tirol 0 Att: 15,000

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sturm Graz	13	9	3	1	27	8	30
Grazer AK	13	8	1	4	26	12	25
Rapid	13	6	3	4	16	14	21
Austria Wien	13	6	3	4	20	19	21
LASK	13	5	3	5	18	20	18
Ried	13	4	4	5	14	21	16
Aust.Salzburg	13	4	3	6	20	18	15
Lustenau	13	3	5	5	18	18	14
FC Tirol	13	4	2	7	16	19	14
Admira Wacker	13	2	1	10	8	34	7

BELGIUM

Saturday, August 30

Anderlecht 0
Genk 2 (Strupar 60, Oyen 77) Att: 26,346

Charleroi 1 (Wuillot 53)
Gent 1 (Herreman pen 41) Att: 6,000

Lokeren 2 (Koller 16, Ekakia 44)
Mouscron 1 (Ban 24) Att: 4,500

Lommel 3 (Van Kessel 13, Cannaerts 25, Van Veldhoven 67)
RWDM 1 (Sabbadini pen 45) Att: 6,000

St Truiden 1 (Wuyts pen 48)
Antwerp 0 Att: 6,000

Westerlo 2 (Thans 36,Zvingilas 61)
Harelbeke 2 (Visser 57, La Vale 63) Att: 5,500

Sunday, August 31

Club Brugge 3 (Claessens 4, Staelens 24, Verheyen 72)
Beveren 1 (Knapen 86) Att: 13,000

Six out of six for Club Brugge…Arsenal go top…Metz keep things tight…Kaiserslautern turn on the goal power…Ajax 100 per cent

Eendracht Aalst 1 (Lambo 77)
Lierse 3 (Van Kerckhoven 21, 73, Hasenhuttl 40)
Att: 9,000

Ekeren 0
Standard 3 (Wamberto 37, De Conde 49, E. Mpenza 86)
Att: 5,500

Friday, September 12

Standard 1 (De Sousa 88)
Anderlecht 2 (Iachtchouk 54, Dheedene 89)
Att: 20,000

Saturday, September 13

Beveren 2 (Torken pen 33, 90)
Westerlo 0 Att: 4,000

Charleroi 2 (Topkene 30, Brncic 46)
Lokeren 0 Att: 4,500

Mouscron 0
Ekeren 1 (Hofmans 34) Att: 5,000

Genk 3 (Strupar 2, Oulare 12, Guderjonsson 16)
Eendracht Aalst 2 (Lambo 81, 87) Att: 11,000

Gent 0
Harelbeke 0 Att: 5,000

Lierse 1 (Zdebel 66)
Lommel 4 (Vyncken 21, Eshun 47, 67, Van Veldhoven 86) Att: 8,000

RWDM 2 (Sonck 76, 781)
St Truiden 0 Att: 3,500

Antwerp v Club Brugge postponed

Friday, September 19

Anderlecht 1 (Scifo 5)
Mouscron 2 (Pierre 39, 80) Att: 14,000

Saturday, September 20

Lokeren 3 (Ekakia 20, Snoeckx 59, Staelens 90)
Gent 2 (Foguenne 1, Herreman pen 83) Att: 6,500

Lommel 3 (Cannaerts 36, 49, Van Veldhoven 53)
Genk 1 (Olivieri 69) Att: 12,500

St Truiden 0
Lierse 5 (Van Meir pen 16, Huistra 36, 52, Van de Weyer 66, Hoefkens 70) Att: 8,000

Westerlo 5 (Janssen 2, 13 pen, Verheyen 22, Ferreira 41, Burg 47)
Antwerp 2 (Taeymans 9, Pivaljevic 21) Att: 7,000

Sunday, September 21

Club Brugge 4 (Claessens 46, 84, Anic 54, Verheyen 66)
RWDM 0 Att: 13,000

Eendracht Aalst 1 (Sandjon 90)
Standard 1 (Da Conde 19) Att: 9,000

Ekeren 5 (Radzinski 46, 68, 74, Hofmans 64, 76)
Charleroi 0 Att: 2,500

Harelbeke 1 (Verschelde 73)
Beveren 1 (Imagbudu 63) Att: 4,500

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Club Brugge	6	6	0	0	19	4	18
Genk	7	5	1	1	19	8	16
Lommel	7	5	1	1	19	8	16
Ekeren	7	4	1	2	15	10	13
Charleroi	7	3	2	2	8	11	11
Lierse	7	3	1	3	15	11	10
Westerlo	7	3	1	3	14	17	10
Harelbeke	7	2	4	1	9	7	10
Lokeren	7	3	0	4	10	17	9
Gent	7	2	3	2	13	11	9
Mouscron	7	2	3	2	7	6	9
Standard Liege	7	2	2	3	9	9	8
RWD Molenbeek	7	2	1	4	8	13	7
Anderlecht	6	2	0	4	4	10	6
Eendracht Aalst	7	1	3	3	7	10	6
Beveren	7	1	3	3	8	11	6
St Truiden	7	1	2	4	4	14	5
Antwerp	5	0	0	5	5	16	0

ENGLAND

Monday, August 24

Blackburn 7 (Gallacher 3, 7, Hyde og 10, Wilcox 20, Sutton 24, 74, Bohinen 53)
Sheffied Wed 2 (Carbone 8, 47) Att: 19,618

Wednesday, August 26

Leeds 0
Liverpool 2 (McManaman 23, Riedle 75) Att: 39,775

Thursday, August 27

Barnsley 2 (Tinkler 13, Hristov 48)
Bolton 1 (Beardsley 32) Att: 18,661

Coventry 1 (Huckerby 38)
West Ham 1 (Kitson 64) Att: 18,289

Everton 0
Man Utd 2 (Beckham 30, Sheringham 52) Att: 40,079

Leicester 3 (Heskey 82, Elliott 89, Walsh 90)
Arsenal 3 (Bergkamp 10, 62, 90) Att: 21,089

Southampton 1 (Davies 57)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 15,032

Tottenham 3 (Ferdinand 6, 66, Fox 77)
Aston Villa 2 (Yorke 27, Collymore 58) Att: 26,317

Wimbledon 0
Chelsea 2 (Di Matteo 60, Petrescu 64) Att: 22,237

Saturday, August 30

Arsenal 0
Tottenham 0 Att: 38,102

Aston Villa 1 (Yorke 67)
Leeds 0 Att: 39,027

Chelsea 4 (Petrescu 7, Leboeuf 28, M. Hughes 31, Wise 34)
Southampton 2 (Davies 25, Monkou 59) Att: 30,008

Crystal Palace 1 (Dyer 52)
Blackburn 2 (Sutton 24, Gallacher 32) Att: 20,849

Derby 1 (Eranio pen 43)
Barnsley 0 Att: 27,232

Man Utd 3 (Cole 2, Keane 72, Poborsky 90)
Coventry 0 Att: 55,074

Sheffield Wed 1 (Carbone pen 56)
Leicester 0 Att: 24,851

West Ham 3 (Hartson 48, Rieper 54, Berkovich 55)
Wimbledon 1 (Ekoku 81) Att: 24,516

Sunday, August 31

Liverpool v Newcastle postponed

Monday, September 1

Bolton 0
Everton 0 Att: 23,131

Saturday, September 13

Arsenal 4 (Wright 20, 25, 81, Parlour 44)
Bolton 1 (Thompson 13) Att: 38,138

Barnsley 0
Aston Villa 3 (Ehiogu 25, Draper 50, Taylor 72) Att: 18,649

Coventry 1 (Soltvedt 65)
Southampton 0 Att: 18,659

Crystal Palace 0
Chelsea 3 (M. Hughes 20, Leboeuf pen 26, Le Saux 90) Att: 26,186

Derby 3 (Hunt 23, C. Powell 33, Sturridge 66)
Everton 1 (Stuart 28) Att: 27,828

Leicester 3 (Walsh 55, Guppy 68, Heskey 77)
Tottenham 0 Att: 20,683

Liverpool 2 (Ince 55, Thomas 68)
Sheffield Wed 1 (Collins 80) Att: 34,705

Man Utd 2 (Keane 21, Scholes 76)
West Ham 1 (Hartson 14) Att: 55,068

Newcastle 1 (Barton 32)
Wimbledon 3 (Cort 2, Perry 59, Ekoku 76) Att: 36,526

Sunday, September 14

Blackburn 3 (Gallacher 8, Sutton pen 16, Dahlin 33)
Leeds 4 (Wallace 3, 17, Molenaar 6, Hopkin 23)
Att: 21,956

Saturday, September 20

Aston Villa 2 (Yorke 73, Joachim 75)
Derby 1 (Baiano 15) Att: 35,444

Bolton 0
Man Utd 0 Att: 25,000

Everton 4 (Speed 12, Cadamarteri 42, Speed pen 77, Oster 84)
Barnsley 2 (Redfearn 32, Barnard 78) Att: 36,659

Leeds 0
Leicester 1 (Walsh 32) Att: 29,620

Sheffield Wed 0
Coventry 0 Att: 21,087

Southampton 1 (Davies 48)
Liverpool 1 (Riedle 37) Att: 15,252

Tottenham 0
Blackburn 0 Att: 26,573

West Ham 0
Newcastle 1 (Barnes 44) Att: 5,884

Wimbledon 0
Crystal Palace 1 (Lombardo 80) Att: 16,747

Sunday, September 21

Chelsea 2 (Poyet 40, Zola 60)
Arsenal 3 (Bergkamp 45, 59, Winterburn 89)
Att: 33,012

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	9	5	4	0	22	10	19
Manchester Utd	9	5	3	1	12	4	18
Leicester	9	5	3	1	13	6	18
Chelsea	8	5	1	2	22	10	16
Blackburn	9	4	4	1	19	9	16
Leeds	9	4	1	4	11	11	13
West Ham	9	4	1	4	12	14	13
Derby	7	4	0	3	14	7	12
Liverpool	8	3	3	2	12	8	12
Newcastle	6	4	0	2	6	5	12
Crystal Palace	9	3	2	4	9	11	11
Coventry	9	2	5	2	8	11	11
Tottenham	9	2	4	3	6	10	10
Aston Villa	9	3	1	5	10	15	10
Wimbledon	8	2	3	3	10	10	9
Everton	8	2	2	4	10	13	8
Bolton	8	1	5	2	8	11	8
Sheffield Wed	9	1	3	5	11	22	6
Barnsley	9	2	0	7	7	23	6
Southampton	9	1	1	7	5	17	4

LEAGUE CUP - 1ST RND RET LEGS

Tuesday, August 26

Burnley 2 Lincoln 1
Ipswich 3 Charlton 1
Plymouth 3 Oxford 5
Portsmouth 1 Peterborough 2
Preston 2 Rotherham 0
Sheffield Utd 3 Wrexham 1
Southend 3 Cardiff 1
York 1 Port Vale 1
Man City 1 Blackpool 0 aet
Blackpool win on penalties

Wednesday, August 27

Nottm Forest 2 Doncaster 1
Stoke 1 Rochdale 1
West Bromwich 2 Cambridge 1 aet
Wolves 1 QPR 2

FRANCE

Friday, August 29

Guingamp 1 (Tasfaout 66)
Marseille 1 (Mihali og 45) Att: 13,428

Monaco 1 (Spehar pen 47)
Metz 2 (Lukic 21, Pires 90) Att: 10,000

Saturday, August 30

Chateauroux 1 (Chavrondier 73)
Cannes 2 (Abou 53, Dufresne 64) Att: 6,949

Bordeaux 3 (Musampa 2, 51, Wiltord 80)
Auxerre 2 (Lachuer 15, Marlet 38) Att: 18,000

Lens 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 27,782

Nantes 2 (Ferrie 1, Gourvennec pen 17)
Le Havre 0 Att: 20,101

Lyon 0
Bastia 2 (Casanova 1, Jurietti 30) Att: 18,144

Paris SG 4 (Ngotty 34, Simone 70, 74, Le Guen 89)
Rennes 1 (Lambert pen 75) Att: 34,793

Toulouse 1 (Sachy 55)
Strasbourg 1 (Suchoparek 15) Att: 10,300

Thursday, September 4

Le Havre 1 (Huysman 45)
Toulouse 1 (Maharzi 48) Att: 10,596

Marseille 1 (Gravelaine 55)
Lyon 0 Att: 21,983

Friday, September 5

Auxerre 5 (Guivarc'h 42, 45, Jeunechamp 53, Lamouchi 68, Danjou 70)
Chateauroux 0 Att: 6,000

Bastia 4 (Jestrovic 24, 31, Estame 79, Swierczewski 81)
Bordeaux 1 (Micoud 38) Att: 7,000

Cannes 1 (Capoue 55)
Monaco 2 (Ikpeba 46, Trezeguet 84) Att: 7,000

Lens 0
Nantes 0 Att: 24,444

Montpellier 2 (Sanchez 3, Bakayoko 31)
Guingamp 3 (Tasfaout 6, 26, Baret 66) Att: 9,957

Rennes 2 (Gregoire 17, 29)
Metz 2 (Rodriguez 19, Gaillot 89) Att: 12,228

Strasbourg 0
Paris SG 3 (Rai pen 20, Simone 80, Maurice 86)
Att: 26,250

Thursday, September 11

Chateauroux 1 (Coly 25)
Rennes 0 Att: 8,000

Guingamp 2 (Laspalles 13, Bancarel 22)
Lens 1 (Foulon og 47) Att: 10,000

Friday, September 12

Bordeaux 2 (Laslandes 79, Papin pen 89)
Le Havre 1 (Horlaville 25) Att: 8,000

Metz 2 (Gaillot 62, Meyrieu 70)
Cannes 0 Att: 17,500

Monaco 2 (Collins 76, Henry 84)
Marseille 0 Att: 14,000

Nantes 1 (Savinaud 88)
Montpellier 1 (Fugier 47) Att: 17,306

Lyon 3 (Kanoute 11, Giuly 52, Job 88)
Strasbourg 1 (Okpara 45) Att: 10,000

Paris SG 2 (Simone 37, Maurice 87)
Bastia 0 Att: 40,200

Toulouse 2 (Moreau 31, Sachy 90)
Auxerre 1 (Diomede 9) Att: 13,520

Saturday, September 20

Auxerre 1 (Lachuer 10)
Lyon 2 (Carteron 16, Job 47) Att: 8,000

Cannes 1 (Boutobba 50)
Rennes 1 (Dabo 68) Att: 4,000

Guingamp 1 (Coridon 54)
Nantes 0 Att: 15,000

Le Havre 1 (Solay 39)
Paris SG 1 (Maurice 22) Att: 15,039

Lens 2 (Smicer 17, Eloi 88)
Toulouse 0 Att: 20,213

Marseille 2 (Moses 25, Roy 51)
Chateauroux 0 Att: 20,000

Strasbourg 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 12,213

Sunday, September 21

Bastia 0
Metz 0 Att: 9,000

Montpellier 0
Monaco 2 (Ikpeba 42, 71) Att: 10,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Metz	9	7	2	0	18	6	23
Paris	9	6	2	1	20	8	20
Bordeaux	9	5	2	2	14	13	17
Monaco	9	5	1	3	16	10	16
Lens	9	4	3	2	13	7	15
Bastia	9	4	3	1	10	5	15
Toulouse	9	4	3	2	10	10	15
Marseille	9	4	2	3	10	9	14
Guingamp	9	4	2	3	10	10	14
Lyon	9	4	0	5	12	13	12
Auxerre	9	3	0	6	14	16	9
Rennes	9	2	3	4	10	15	9
Montpellier	9	1	5	3	9	12	8
Nantes	9	2	2	5	6	9	8
Chateauroux	9	2	2	5	8	17	8
Strasbourg	9	1	4	4	8	14	7
Cannes	9	2	1	6	8	16	7
Le Havre	9	1	3	5	10	14	6

GERMANY

Friday, August 29

Bochum 1 (Stickroth pen 69) Att: 28,526
Kaiserslautern 3 (Kuka 19, 90, Marschall 72)

Hertha 0
Hamburg 2 (Salihamidzic 34, Dembinski 73) Att: 45,257

Saturday, August 30

Hansa Rostock 1 (Pamic 85)
Bayern Munich 3 (Scholl 58, Nerlinger 69, Jancker 87)
Att: 24,500

Koln 5 (Baumann 10, Tretschok 33, 90, Azizi 47, Schuster 82) Att: 16,000
Wolfsburg 3 (Prager 12, Stammann 65, Meissner 89)

Schalke 2 (De Kock 14, 58)
Borussia MG 0 Att: 59,400

Stuttgart 0
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 53,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Labbadia 42, Bode 75)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 55) Att: 26,500

Sunday, August 31

Karlsruhe 1 (Hassler 82)
Duisburg 2 (Spies 55, Zeyer 67) Att: 28,500

Monday, September 1

Munich 1860 1 (Winkler 68)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 34,000

Friday, September 12

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Hansa Rostock 1 (Majak 40) Att: 21,326

Hamburg 2 (Salihamidzic 33, 36)
Koln 1 (Polster 78) Att: 22,433

Saturday, September 13

Bayern Munich 3 (Elber 42, Jancker 73, Strunz 77)
Hertha 0 Att: 63,000

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Lottner 60, Worns 77)
Munich 1860 2 (Borimirov 47, Winkler pen 71)
Att: 22,300

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Hengen og 52, Chapuisat 68)
Karlsruhe 2 (Gilewicz 25, Hassler 81) Att: 55,000

Borussia MG 2 (Effenberg 78, Juskowiak 79)
Bochum 1 (Sundermann 16) Att: 26,000

Duisburg 2 (Neun 7, Zeyer pen 10)
Werder Bremen 1 (Labbadia 20) Att: 12,500

Wolfsburg 0
Schalke 0 Att: 15,272

Sunday, September 14

Kaiserslautern 4 (Marschall 20, 58, 80, Ratinho 55)
Stuttgart 3 (Bobic 14, Akpoborie 36, Raducioiu 90)
Att: 38,000

Friday, September 19

Karlsruhe 2 (Hassler 50, Keller 57)
Kaiserslautern 4 (Ratinho 19, Wagner pen 23, Kuka 52, Reich 90) Att: 33,700

Munich 1860 0
Duisburg 1 (Zeyer pen 4) Att: 22,500

Saturday, September 20

Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Kuntz pen 12, Fuchs 79)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten pen 43) Att: 20,386

Bochum 2 (Hutwelker 16, 25)
Wolfsburg 1 (Prager 51) Att: 20,100

Hansa Rostock 4 (Lange 11, Majak 43, Zalmann 63, Parnic 88)
Hertha 0 Att: 24,500

Koln 1 (Tretschok 32)
Bayern Munich 2 (Jancker 11, Nerlinger 21)
Att: 47,000

Schalke 2 (Goossens 8, Salihamidzic 35)
Hamburg 2 (Dembinski 30, Anderbrugge pen 63)
Att: 44,820

Werder Bremen 2 (Todt 2, Herzog 23)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ricken 40) Att: 32,083

Sunday, September 21

Stuttgart 3 (Bobic 18, 20, Balakov 50)
Borussia MG 0 Att: 42,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	8	6	1	1	17	9	19
Bayern Munich	8	5	2	1	18	7	17
Duisburg	8	5	1	2	10	9	16
Hansa Rostock	8	4	2	2	11	7	14
Hamburg	8	3	3	2	12	11	12
Schalke	8	3	3	2	8	8	12
VfB Stuttgart	8	3	2	3	12	8	11
Werder Bremen	8	3	2	3	13	15	11
VfL Wolfsburg	8	3	2	3	11	14	11
1860 Munich	8	2	4	2	12	12	10
Borussia MG	8	2	4	2	12	13	10
Dortmund	8	2	3	3	14	11	9
Arminia Bielefeld	8	3	0	5	9	10	9
Karlsruhe	8	2	3	3	15	19	9
Bayer Leverkusen	8	2	2	4	15	13	8
Cologne	8	2	1	5	11	18	7
Bochum	8	2	1	5	10	16	7
Hertha BSC Berlin	8	1	2	5	5	15	5

HOLLAND

Saturday, August 30

Fortuna 0
RKC 3 (Dos Santos 16, Van Diemen 35, 53) Att: 4,000

Heerenveen 3 (De Visser 32, El Khattabi 70, 89)
MVV 1 (Joordens 46) Att: 13,400

NAC 0
NEC 1 (Pothuizen 3) Att: 12,226

PSV 3 (Cocu 31, Stam 38, Vampeta 90)
Willem II 0 Att: 28,400

Roda JC 4 (Lawal 31, 57, Van Houdt 37, Ooijer 64)
Groningen 1 (Schoenmakers 60) Att: 7,000

Feyenoord 2 (Cruz 51, 53)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 26,200

Twente 2 (Ten Caat 3, 62)
Sparta 1 (Van der Laan 68) Att: 7,750

Utrecht 1 (Decheiver 30)
Ajax 7 (Babangida 10, Tobiasen 24, 68, Blind 62, Arveladze 69, Laudrup 72, Litmanen 82) Att: 14,000

Tuesday, September 2

Volendam 1 (Molenaar 35)
Vitesse 1 (Mahlas) Att: 4,000

Monday, September 8

MVV 0
NAC 1 (Stewart 90) Att: 5,200

Tuesday, September 9

Groningen 4 (Schoemakers 50. Magno 60, 66, Huizingh 88)
NEC 0 Att: 12,500

Roda JC 0
Volendam 2 (Schulp 9, 42) Att: 6,000

Ajax 3 (Babangida 30, McCarthy 61, 68)
RKC 0 Att: 46,400

Wednesday, September 10

Sparta 1 (Dennis de Nooijer 25)
Fortuna 1 (Burke 55) Att: 3,500

Utrecht 1 (De Jong 45)
Twente 1 (Petrov 42) Att: 11,000

Vitesse 3 (Mahlas 17, Perovic 26, 47)
Willem II 1 (Wijnhard 82) Att: 7,112

PSV 0
De Graafschap 0 Att: 27,800

Heerenveen 0
Feyenoord 0 Att: 13,500

Friday, September 12

Ajax 4 (Litmanen 20, Babangida 29, Atteveld 77, McCarthy 90)
Groningen 1 (Atteveld og 31) Att: 46,300

MVV 1 (Bouma 7)
Roda JC 2 (Senden 28, Vrede 66) Att: 6,000

NEC 1 (Bociek 1)
Twente 2 (Petrov 7, 21) Att: 4,241

Sparta 5 (Renfurm 31, Dennis de Nooijer 35, 48, Van der Laan 65, Mghizrat 73)
Volendam 0 Att: 3,500

Vitesse 5 (Mahlas 10, 31, 54, Perovic 39, Willems 78)
Utrecht 0 Att: 7,778

Willem II 0
Fortuna 0 Att: 7,735

Feyenoord 1 (Van Gobbel 22)
PSV 1 (Jonk 65) Att: 33,600

De Graafschap 0
NAC 1 (Gudelj 89) Att: 7,400

RKC 1 (Nielsen 78)
Heerenveen 1 (Bove 90) Att: 3,854

Friday, September 19

Fortuna 1 (Hamming 2)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 6,000

Saturday, September 20

PSV 4 (De Bilde 26, 35, Jonk 53, Cocu 57)
Sparta 2 (Renfurm 67, Noorlander 88) Att: 25,300

Willem II 5 (Kolkka 25, Ceesay 31, Arts 56, 65, Kolkka 83)
Volendam 2 (Tumani 2, 48) Att: 7,620

Sunday, September 21

Groningen 1 (Huizingh 60)
Vitesse 1 (Mahlas 5) Att: 13,100

NEC 1 (Van Eijkeren 7)
Ajax 4 (Olishe 5, Litmanen 35, 40, Laudrup 74)
Att: 10,213

RKC 3 (Van Arum 71, 72, Van der Leegte 90)
Utrecht 1 (Van Mol 54) Att: 4,650

Roda JC 0
Heerenveen 2 (El Khattabi 70, Ebiede 82) Att: 7,200

Twente 1 (Hoogma 73)
MVV 0 Att: 7,300

Feyenoord v NAC postponed

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	8	8	0	0	36	3	24
PSV Eindhoven	8	5	3	0	25	9	18
Heerenveen	8	5	2	1	12	5	17
Twente Enschede	8	4	3	1	12	7	15
Feyenoord	7	4	2	1	14	5	14
Vitesse Arnhem	8	4	2	2	21	15	14
Groningen	8	3	3	2	13	10	12
Roda JC Kerkrade	8	4	0	4	13	12	12
Sparta Rotterdam	8	3	2	3	18	14	11
Graafschap	8	3	2	3	10	6	11
NAC Breda	7	2	3	2	6	8	9
Willem II Tilburg	8	2	2	4	13	17	8
RKC Waalwijk	8	2	2	4	11	15	8
NEC Nijmegen	8	2	0	6	5	18	6
Utrecht	8	1	2	5	13	24	5
Fortuna Sittard	8	1	2	5	6	23	5
Volendam	8	1	2	5	5	25	5
MVV Maastricht	8	1	0	7	5	23	3

ITALY

Sunday, August 31

Atalanta 4 (Caccia pen 27, Orlando 48, Sgro 79, Lucarelli 90)
Bologna 2 (Andersson 83, Baggio pen 87)
Att: 20,730

Bari 0
Parma 2 (Strada 42, Benarrivo 71) Att: 34,778

Empoli 1 (Cappellini pen 16)
Roma 3 (Delvecchio 3, Balbo 46, 61) Att: 13,083

Inter 2 (Recoba 80, 86)
Brescia 1 (Hubner 73) Att: 69,682

Juventus 2 (Inzaghi 83, Conte 90)
Lecce 0 Att: 40,413

Lazio 2 (Mancini 68, Pancaro 76)
Napoli 0 Att: 55,739

Piacenza 1 (Delli Carri 64)
Milan 1 (Delli Carri og 29) Att: 25,340

Sampdoria 2 (Boghossian 10, Tovalieri 85)
Vicenza 1 (Di Napoli 54) Att: 24,560

Udinese 2 (M. Amoroso 28, Poggi 72)
Fiorentina 3 (Batistuta 59, 87, 90) Att: 24,592

Saturday, September 13

Brescia 3 (Hubner 5, 76, 81)
Sampdoria 3 (Boghossian 9, Montella 74, 80)
Att: 15,885

Lecce 1 (Palmieri 60)
Udinese 2 (Bachini 1, Locatelli 59) Att: 16,365

Milan 1 (Ba 38)
Lazio 1 (Signori 90) Att: 67,575

Sunday, September 14

Bologna 2 (Baggio 44, pen 58)
Inter 4 (Galante 12, Ganz 38, Ronald 51, Djorkaeff 66)
Att: 36,267

Fiorentina 3 (Batistuta 1 11, Kantsjelskis 39)
Bari 1 (Ventola 2) Att: 31,706

Inter set the pace…95,000 at Madrid derby…Barcelona win first four…Lucerne fight back…Nine-point lead for Sparta Prague…Euro tables

Napoli 2 (Bellucci 32, Protti 49)
Empoli 1 (C. Esposito 76) Att: 31,337

Parma 2 (Maniero 29, Strada 35)
Atalanta 2 (Lucarelli 20, 62) Att: 20,424

Roma 0
Juventus 0 Att: 67,639

Vicenza 3 (Di Carlo pen 33, Luisa 51, Di Napoli 63)
Piacenza 2 (Tramezzani pen 29, Valtolina 70)
Att: 15,318

Saturday, September 20

Atalanta 0
Sampdoria 2 (Laigle 13, Montella 64) Att: 18,398

Bari 0
Bologna 0 Att: 24,404

Empoli 1 (Martusciello 11)
Lazio 0 Att: 12,799

Inter 3 (Ronaldo 45, Moriero 72, Djorkaeff 81)
Fiorentina 2 (Serena 45, Batistuta 47) Att: 73,375

Juventus 4 (E. Filippini og 7, Conte 36, Inzaghi 38, Del Piero 56)
Brescia 0 Att: 40,774

Piacenza 1 (Scienza 45)
Parma 3 (Crespo 1, Sensini 29, Crespo 63)
Att: 12,048

Roma 3 (Totti 48, Di Biagio 62, Balbo 68)
Lecce 1 (Palmieri 55) Att: 50,371

Vicenza 1 (Di Napoli 17)
Napoli 1 (Turrini 18) Att: 15,670

Sunday, September 21

Udinese 2 (Bierhoff 22, 85)
Milan 1 (Kluivert 4) Att: 26,626

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	4	4	0	0	14	6	12
Parma	4	3	1	0	11	3	10
Juventus	4	2	2	0	7	1	8
Roma	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Sampdoria	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Lazio	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Atalanta	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Vicenza	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Fiorentina	4	2	0	2	9	8	6
Empoli	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Udinese	4	2	0	2	6	9	6
Napoli	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Brescia	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
Milan	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Bologna	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Piacenza	4	0	1	3	4	9	1
Bari	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Lecce	4	0	0	4	3	12	0

ITALIAN CUP 2ND RND, 1ST LEG

Tuesday, September 2

AC Milan 0 Reggiana 0

Wednesday, September 3

Bari 1 Brescia 0
Cagliari 3 Piacenza 2
Castel di Sangro 0 Fiorentina 2
Fidelis Andria 0 Lazio 3
Foggia 0 Inter 1
Genoa 3 Atalanta 0
Roma 5 AS Hellas Verona 3
Lecce 2 Empoli 1
Perugia 3 Napoli 2
Pescara 0 Vicenza 1
Ravenna 0 Bologna 5
Reggina 1 Udinese 2
Torino 2 Sampdoria 1
Venezia 3 Parma 2

Thursday, September 4

Brescello 1 Juventus 1

PORTUGAL

Monday, August 25

Varzim 0
FC Porto 2 (Sergio Conceicao 6, Zahovic 12)

Friday, August 29

Rio Ave 1 (Emanuel 58)
Guimaraes 2 (Riva 9, Gilmar 28)

Saturday, August 30

FC Porto 2 (Zahovic 43, Jardel 79)
Belenenses 0

Sunday, August 31

Academica 2 (Paulao 26, 37)
Boavista 0

Campomaiorense 0
Salgueiros 0

Estrela Amadora 0
Varzim 0

Leca 1 (Serifo 42)
Maritimo 1 (Ricardo Silva 45)

Sporting Braga 2 (Bruno 14, Karoglan pen 33)
Farense 2 (Braulio 66, 71)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Leandro 5, Yordanov 9)
Chaves 0

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Kassumov 11)
Benfica 0

Saturday, September 13

Chaves 1 (Tonino 44)
Sporting Braga 2 (Toni 11, 65)

Guimaraes 1 (Tito 45)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Benfica 1 (El Khalej 88)
Academica 1 (Mickey 73)

FC Porto 4 (Sergio 58, Jardel 63, 75, Drulovic 85)
Estrela Amadora 0

Belenenses 0
Farense 3 (Paulo Sergio 38, Hassan Nader 49, Ramos 88)

Boavista 1 (Timofte 40)
Rio Ave 2 (Quinzinho 24, Marcos 64)

Maritimo 2 (Carlos Jorge 57, Romeu 77)
Campomaiorense 1 (Laelson 83)

Salgueiros 1 (Semedo 59)
Vitoria Setubal 1 (Kassumov 60)

Varzim 1 (Zacarias 64)
Leca 0

Saturday, September 20

Academica 2 (Paulao pen 31, Tomas 87)
Salgueiros 1 (Santos 71)

Campomaiorense 1 (Laelson 24)
Varzim 1 (Miranda 54)

Rio Ave 3 (Peu 5, Divac 35, Marcos 38)
Benfica 1 (Joao Pinto pen 90)

Farense 1 (Redouane pen 88)
Chaves 0

Sunday, September 21

Estrela Amadora 1 (Aires 56)
Belenenses 1 (Ferraz 83)

Sporting Braga 3 (Karoglan 44, Toni 63, 80)
Guimaraes 2 (Lino og 28, Lucena 88)

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Kassumov pen 2)
Maritmo 1 (Moreira 77)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	5	5	0	0	14	2	15
Vitoria Guimaraes	5	4	0	1	8	4	12
Maritimo	5	3	2	0	10	5	11
Rio Ave	5	3	0	2	9	9	9
Braga	5	2	3	0	9	7	9
Farense	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Sporting Lisbon	5	2	2	1	3	1	8
Varzim	5	2	2	1	3	3	8
Academica	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
Salgueiros	5	1	3	1	7	4	6
Estrela Amadora	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Benfica	5	1	2	2	6	5	5
Vitoria Setubal	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Boavista	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Chaves	5	1	0	4	2	7	3
Leca	5	0	2	3	4	7	2
Campomaiorense	5	0	2	3	2	10	2
Belenenses	5	0	2	3	3	9	2

SUPER CUP, RETURN LEG

Wedneday, September 10

FC Porto 1 (Fernando Mendes 7)
Boavista 0 Att: 30,000

SCOTLAND

Saturday, August 30

Aberdeen 1 (Dodds 44)
Dundee Utd 1 (Winters 33) Att: 12,060

Dunfermline 2 (Tod 7, 77)
St Johnstone 2 (French og 68, O'Boyle 80)
Att: 15,500

Hibernian 0
Hearts 1 (McCann 7) Att: 15,550

Sunday, August 31

Kilmarnock v Motherwell postponed

Monday, September 1

Celtic v Rangers postponed

Saturday, September 13

Dundee Utd 1 (Olofsson 63)
Kilmarnock 2 (Wright 15, pen 53) Att: 6,883

Rangers 3 (Negri pen 44, Albertz pen 55, Laudrup 76)
Aberdeen 3 (Newell 58, Dodds 64, Inglis 78)
Att: 50,030

Hibernian 5 (Charnley 25, 79, Lavety 31, Crawford 38, McGinlay 55)
Dunfermline 2 (Millar pen 16, Petrie 80)
Att: 10,070

Motherwell 2 (Coyne 4, 59)
Celtic 3 (Burley 57, 75, Donnelly 81)
Att: 11,550

St Johnstone 1 (Tosh 70)
Hearts 2 (Hamilton 19, 65) Att: 5,836

Saturday, September 20

Celtic 2 (Larsson 26, 38)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 49,017

Hearts 2 (Pressley og 44, Robertson 60)
Dundee Utd 1 (Olofsson 45) Att: 13,415

Motherwell 1 (Coyne 80)
Hibernian 1 (Rougier 46) Att: 7,420

St Johnstone 0
Rangers 2 (Negri 7, 47)
Att: 10,093

Sunday, September 21

Dunfermline 1 (Smith 62)
Kilmarnock 1 (Wright pen 89)
Att: 5,374

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	7	5	0	2	14	8	15
Rangers	6	4	2	0	18	7	14
Hibernian	7	3	3	1	14	7	12
Celtic	6	4	0	2	11	7	12
Dunfermline	7	3	2	2	11	13	11
Motherwell	6	2	2	2	10	8	8
St.Johnstone	7	1	3	3	6	10	6
Kilmarnock	6	1	2	3	3	12	5
Dundee.U	7	0	3	4	7	14	3
Aberdeen	7	0	3	4	7	15	3

LEAGUE CUP– QUARTER-FINALS

Tuesday, September 9

Dunfermline 1 Hearts 0 aet
Rangers 0 Dundee Utd 1 aet

Wednesday, September 10

Celtic 1 Motherwell 0
Stirling Albion 0 Aberdeen 2

SPAIN

Saturday, August 30

Real Madrid 1 (Seedorf 74)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Juninho 16) Att: 95,000

Sunday, August 31

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Larazabal pen 17)
Espanyol 3 (Esnaider 7, 11, Ouedec 35)
Att: 35,000

Barcelona 3 (Rivaldo 26, 80, Giovanni 55)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 80,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Karpin 76, Patxi Salinas 87)
Real Zaragoza 1 (Kili Gonzalez 61) Att: 15,000

Compostela 2 (Penev pen 69, Sion 84)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 7,000

Santander 1 (Alberto 75)
Salamanca 0 Att: 11,000

Real Oviedo 2 (Dely Valdes 5, Pompei 41)
Merida 0 Att: 14,000

Real Mallorca 2 (Amato 5, Djukic og 86)
Valencia 1 (Djukic 55) Att: 18,000

Tenerife 0
La Coruna 0 Att: 20,000

Monday, September 1

Real Valladolid 1 (Juan Carlos Comez 32)
Real Betis 3 (Vidakovic 84, Alexis pen 86, Nadj 90)
Att: 24,000

Saturday, September 6

Atletico Madrid 5 (Bogdanovic 18, 38, Santi pen 67, Lardin 68, Kiko 90)
Real Valladolid 0 Att: 40,000

Real Betis 1 (Oli 80)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Larrainzar 59) Att: 40,000

Sunday, September 7

La Coruna 1 (Ivan Campo og 46)
Mallorca 1 (Moya 42) Att: 25,000

Espanyol 1 (Berges og 83)
Celta Vigo 1 (Berges 55) Att: 26,800

Merida 3 (Pirri Mori 49, Marcos pen 70, Jaime 78)
Compostela 3 (Manuel 20, Lekumberri 22, Ohen 42)
Att: 6,000

Real Sociedad 1 (Luis Perez 44)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 19,000

Real Zaragoza 3 (Kili Gonzalez 53, Garitano pen 63, Yordi 77)

Real Oviedo 3 (Pompei 12, 26, Gonzalez pen 68)
Att: 20,000

Salamanca 0
Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 9, 20) Att: 13,000

Sporting Gijon 0
Tenerife 2 (Pinilla 5, Chano 53) Att: 15,259

Monday, September 8

Valencia 0
Barcelona 3 (Anderson 1, Rivaldo pen 37, De La Pena 78) Att: 45,000

Saturday, September 13

Athletic Bilbao 1 (J. Etxberria 9)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 40,000

Barcelona 2 (Luis Enrique 23, Anderson 88)
La Coruna 1 (Luizao 90) Att: 50,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Karpin 32, Sanchez 89)
Real Betis 0 Att: 19,800

Compostela 1 (Bellido 65)
Tenerife 2 (Makaay 18, Kodro pen 85) Att: 7,000

Real Madrid 2 (Suker 28, Raul 56)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 90,000

Real Valladolid 1 (Juan Carlos Gomez pen 20)
Salamanca 2 (Pauleta 55, Cesar Britto pen 70)
Att: 19,600

Sunday, September 14

Merida 0
Real Zaragoza 1 (Garitano pen 45) Att: 6,000

Racing Santander 2 (Javi Lopez 20, Correa 30)
Valencia 1 (Vlaovic 17) Att: 10,000

Real Oviedo 1 (Gonzalez 45)
Espanyol 1 (Ouedec 24) Att: 15,000

Monday, September 15

Mallorca 6 (Mena 20, Moya 45, Amato 47, Manchu 79, 82, Villarroya og 82)
Sporting Gijon 2 (Kosolapov 13, Kucharski 74)
Att: 10,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Mallorca	4	3	1	0	13	5	10
Real Madrid	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Celta Vigo	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Tenerife	3	2	1	1	5	5	7
Oviedo	4	1	3	0	7	5	6
Real Sociedad	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Racing Santander	4	2	0	2	4	6	6
Atletico Madrid	4	1	2	1	9	5	5
Deportivo Coruna	4	1	2	1	6	4	5
Espanyol	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Compostela	4	1	2	1	8	7	5
Zaragoza	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Real Betis	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Athletic Bilbao	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Salamanca	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Merida	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Valencia	4	0	0	4	2	9	0
Sporting Gijon	4	0	0	4	3	14	0
Valladolid	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

SWITZERLAND

Saturday, August 30

Grasshopper 5 (Subiat 55, Moldovan 72, 83, Nemsadze 75, Haas 90)
Lausanne 1 (Celestini pen 28) Att: 7,100

Neuchatel 3 (Lesniak 64, Martinovic 83, Kunz 90)
Basel 0 Att: 8,100

Servette 2 (Zdrilic 22, Rey 59)
Aarau 1 (Zdrilic 22) Att: 5,300

Sion 3 (Zambas 14, Milton 62, Grassi 66)
Kriens 0 Att: 8,500

Sunday, August 31

Lucerne 1 (T. Wyss pen 75)
Etoile Carouge 1 (Orlando 7) Att: 5,400

St Gallen 1 (Contini 9)
Zurich 1 (Yekini 23) Att: 12,000

Friday, September 12

Neuchatel Xamax 1 (Martinov 26)
Zurich 1 (Tarone 85) Att: 6,600

Saturday, September 13

Grasshopper 3 (Subiat 6, A. Esposito 13, Kavelaschvili 78)
Basel 2 (Barberis 15, Gaudino 61) Att: 9,150

St Gallen 3 (Regtop 36, Vurens 63, Contini 83)
Kriens 0 Att: 7,000

Servette 1 (Potocianu 20)
Sion 0 Att: 9,500

Sunday, September 14

Aarau 3 (Zdrilic 21, Pavlicevic 33, Drakopoulos 80)
Etoile Carouge 0 Att: 3,200

Lucern 1 (Londono og 85)
Lausanne 0 Att: 7,000

Saturday, September 20

Kriens 1 (Schnarwiler 90)
Neuchatel Xamax 1 (Sandjak pen 84) Att: 2,800

Lausanne 2 (Thurre 3, N'Kufo 12)
Aarau 1 (Studer 33) Att: 3,350

Sion 2 (Ouattara 27, 29)
St Gallen 4 (Hellinga 3, Regtop 17, 22, 45) Att: 8,000

Zurich 1 (Yekini 51)
Grasshopper 2 (Moldovan 4, Turkyilmaz 74)
Att: 17,000

Etoile Carouge 1 (Hertig 22)
Servette 2 (Varela 55, Rey 88) Att: 6,200

Sunday, September 21

Basel 3 (Frick 20, 72, Giallanza 73)
Lucerne 4 (Aleksandrov 59, 87, Kogl 82, Mouri 89)
Att: 10,000

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Servette	13	9	4	0	26	11	31
Grasshopper	12	8	2	2	35	14	26
Lausanne	13	7	3	3	26	17	24
St Gallen	12	5	4	3	24	19	19
FC Zurich	13	4	6	3	16	16	18
Sion	12	4	5	3	18	14	17
Aarau	13	5	2	6	21	19	17
Neuchatel Xamax	13	4	3	6	18	22	15
Kriens	13	4	3	6	14	20	15
Lucerne	12	3	4	5	13	19	13
Basle	13	2	2	9	13	27	8
Etoile Carouge	13	0	4	9	11	37	4

EURO TABLES

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Sofia	8	7	0	1	21	8	21
Litex Lovech	8	6	2	0	22	4	20
Spartak Varna	8	6	0	2	19	9	18
CSKA Sofia	8	5	1	2	21	8	16
Neftochimik	8	5	0	3	17	10	15
Slavia Sofia	8	4	2	2	12	7	14
Lokomotiv Sofia	8	4	1	3	16	11	13
Metalurg Pernik	8	3	2	3	6	7	11
Minyor Pernik	8	3	1	4	7	7	10
Levski Kyustendil	8	3	0	5	13	14	9
Olympic Teteven	8	3	0	5	7	12	9
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	8	2	1	5	7	15	7
Botev Plovdiv	8	2	1	5	5	18	7
Spartak Pleven	8	2	0	6	10	24	6
Dobrudzha	8	2	0	6	5	20	6
Etur	8	1	1	6	8	22	4

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk Split	8	7	0	1	12	2	21
Zagreb	8	5	2	1	17	6	17
Croatia Zagreb	7	5	1	1	14	5	16
Hr. Dragovoljac	8	4	2	2	14	9	14
Osijek	8	4	2	2	12	8	14
Rijeka	8	2	4	2	9	9	10
Mladost	8	3	1	4	6	9	10
Samobor	7	3	1	3	8	13	10
Slaven Belupo	8	2	2	4	9	14	8
Sibenik	8	2	1	5	4	11	7
Varteks Varazdin	8	1	2	5	9	17	5
Zadarkomerc	8	0	0	8	3	14	0

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	21	15	5	1	70	14	50
Stabæk	21	12	3	6	28	27	39
Stromsgodset	21	12	2	7	50	35	38
Molde	21	11	5	5	35	28	38
Brann	21	10	5	6	40	29	35
Bodo/Glimt	21	9	4	8	31	26	31
Viking	21	7	8	6	34	25	29
Kongsvinger	21	8	5	8	29	37	29
Tromso	21	6	9	6	34	32	27
Lillestrom	21	7	5	9	28	36	26
Haugesund	21	6	4	11	22	33	22
Sogndal	21	5	4	12	25	48	19
Skeid	21	3	4	14	26	55	13
Lyn	21	2	5	14	21	48	11

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ionikos	4	4	0	0	9	0	12
Panathinaikos	4	4	0	0	7	0	12
Heracles	4	3	1	0	5	0	10
AEK	4	3	1	0	4	1	10
Olympiakos	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Xanthi	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Apollon	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
PAOK	4	1	2	1	6	3	5
OFI	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Proodeytiki	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Panionios	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Ethnikos	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Paniliakos	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Veroia	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Kavala	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
Kalamata	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
Athinaikos	4	0	1	3	1	6	1
Panahaiki	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gyor	5	5	0	0	12	6	15
Vasas	5	4	0	1	15	7	12
MTK	5	4	0	1	15	8	12
BVSC	5	3	2	0	11	5	11
Ujpest	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Haladas	5	3	0	2	9	5	9
Videoton	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Ferencvaros	5	2	2	1	8	8	8
Debrecen	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Bekescsaba	5	2	1	2	5	10	7
Diosgyor	5	2	0	3	9	6	6
Gazszer	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Siofok	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Tiszakecske	5	1	1	3	7	12	4
Stadler	5	0	3	2	5	8	3
Kispest Honved	5	1	0	4	5	15	3
Vac	5	0	1	4	7	14	1
Zalaegerszeg	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Arges Pitesti	9	7	2	0	15	6	23
Otelul Galati	9	7	1	1	24	4	22
Rapid Bucharest	9	7	1	1	14	5	22
Steaua Bucharest	8	6	1	1	20	9	19
National	8	6	0	2	11	6	18
Univ Craiova	8	5	1	2	20	8	16
CSM Resita	9	5	1	3	15	15	16
Dinamo	9	5	0	4	19	15	15
Foresta Faticeni	9	3	2	4	8	9	11
Petrolul Ploiesti	9	3	1	5	13	13	10
Ceahlaul	8	2	2	4	10	9	8
Gloria Bistrita	9	2	2	5	14	17	8
FCM Bacau	9	1	5	3	7	11	8
Sportul Studentesc	9	2	1	6	8	15	7
Univ Cluj	9	1	3	5	6	12	6
Farul Constanta	9	1	3	5	8	16	6
Chindia Tirgoviste	9	1	2	6	7	23	5
Jiul Petrosani	9	1	0	8	6	32	3

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	7	7	0	0	18	5	21
Slavia Prague	7	3	3	1	13	5	12
Boby Brno	7	3	2	2	14	8	11
FK Teplice	7	3	2	2	12	8	11
Sigma Olomouc	7	3	2	2	7	4	11
Petra Drnovice	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
SK Hradec Kralove	7	3	2	2	7	9	11
Banik Ostrava	7	2	4	1	12	12	10
Slovan Liberec	7	3	1	3	9	12	10
FK Jablonec	7	2	3	2	7	8	9
Viktoria Plzen	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
Kaucuk Opava	7	1	4	2	9	12	7
Ceske Budejovice	7	1	3	3	7	10	6
Viktoria Zizkov	7	1	3	3	3	6	6
FC Dukla	7	1	2	4	5	12	5
Bohdanec	7	1	0	6	3	14	3

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Copenhagen	10	7	3	0	26	12	24
Silkeborg	10	6	4	0	17	8	22
Vejle	10	7	0	3	18	11	21
AB Copenhagen	10	4	5	1	18	11	17
Lyngby	10	5	2	3	22	25	17
Brondby	10	5	1	4	23	16	16
AaB Aalborg	10	3	3	4	17	17	12
Ikast	10	3	2	5	18	24	11
AGF Aarhus	10	3	1	6	15	17	10
Herfolge	10	3	1	6	14	25	10
Aarhus Fremad	10	1	2	7	15	24	5
OB Odense	10	0	2	8	8	21	2

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Moscow	29	18	6	5	55	24	60
Rotor Volgograd	29	18	6	5	50	24	60
Dynamo Moscow	29	16	9	4	38	17	57
Lokomotiv M	29	12	9	8	40	30	45
Chernomorets	29	11	12	6	32	22	45
Shinnik Yaroslavl	28	11	10	7	30	29	43
Zenit	29	11	9	9	21	23	42
Torpedo Moscow	29	12	5	12	42	36	41
Alania	29	12	4	13	44	32	40
Krylya Sovietov	29	11	7	11	26	26	40
Baltika	29	8	14	7	32	32	38
Rostselmash	29	8	13	8	30	29	37
Zhemchuzhina	29	10	6	13	30	38	36
Tyumen	29	9	5	15	25	39	32
CSKA Moscow	29	8	7	14	21	39	31
Fakel Voronezh	29	7	3	19	20	38	24
Lokomotiv NN	28	5	4	19	20	47	19
KamAZ-Chally	29	7	3	19	32	63	18

Note: Dynamo-Gazovik Tyumen changed name to FK Tyumen after 2 rounds.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halmstad	20	14	0	6	38	22	42
Gothenburg	20	12	5	3	39	24	41
Malmo	20	9	8	3	39	21	35
Helsingborg	20	9	7	4	30	24	34
Elfsborg	20	10	3	7	37	26	33
Orebro	20	9	5	6	33	29	32
Orgryte	20	9	5	6	24	23	32
AIK	20	8	7	5	32	19	31
Norrkoping	20	6	5	9	21	27	23
Trelleborg	20	7	2	11	31	41	23
Västeras	20	4	4	12	19	37	16
Degerfors	20	3	6	11	22	37	15
Ljungskile	20	3	5	12	24	41	14
Öster	20	2	8	10	19	37	14

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	8	7	0	1	19	5	21
Trabzonspor	8	6	1	1	18	10	19
Besiktas	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
Galatasaray	8	4	2	2	19	10	14
Istanbulspor	8	4	2	2	20	14	14
Bursaspor	8	4	2	2	10	8	14
Karabukspor	8	4	1	3	9	9	13
Samsunspor	8	3	2	3	11	9	11
Kayserispor	8	3	2	3	8	11	11
Kocaelispor	8	3	1	4	10	9	10
Antalyaspor	8	2	3	3	14	15	9
Dardanelspor	8	1	5	2	9	12	8
Gaziantepsor	8	2	2	4	8	12	8
Altay	8	2	2	4	5	10	8
Genclerbirligi	8	1	4	3	6	7	7
Ankaragucu	8	1	3	4	5	12	6
Sekerspor	8	1	3	4	9	18	6
Vanspor	8	0	1	7	8	23	1

Jubilo lead in Japan...South American Super Cup...Internacional lead in Brazil...World Under 17 Championship results...

USA

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Week ending Sunday, August 31

Kansas City Wizards 1 (Preki 53)
Colorado Rapids 0 Att: 7,619

New England Revolution 2 (Baba 43, McInley 51)
DC United 3 (Etcheverry 39, 59, Diaz Arce 88)
Att: 9,675

DC United 2 (Etcheverry 22, Wegerle 77)
Kansas City Wizards 0 Att: 18,123

Dallas Burn 4 (Kreis pen 31, 76, Washington 35, 67)
Colorado Rapids 1 (Trittschuh 71) Att: 4,451

Tampa Bay 4 (Vasquez 39, Lassiter 64, Prampin 83, Vargas 87)
New England Revolution 0 Att: 9,253

Columbus Crew 2 (Warzycha 5, 56)
LA Galaxy 0 Att: 16,167

NY/NJ MetroStars 3 (Donadoni 41, Savarese 48, 54)
San Jose Clash 0 Att: 14,511

Week Ending Sunday, September 7

MetroStars 3 (De Avila 28, Branco 38, Bartlett 68)
LA Galaxy 1 (Machon 8) Att: 7,232

Kansas City Wizards 2 (Johnson 31, Klopas 48)
Colorado Rapids 1 (Patino 82) Att: 26,599

Dallas Burn 3 (Rodriquez 66, Washington 74, Webber 76)
Colombus Crew 0 Att: 10,383

LA Galaxy 6 (Cienfuegos 6, Hurtado 17, 37, Karapetyan 18, 57, Welton 69)
Tampa Bay 1 (Prampin 38 Att: 7,482

San Jose Clash 4 (Carritos 23, Zico 57, Medved 68, Lozzano 89)
NY/NJ MetroStars 0

Week ending Sunday, September 14

MetroStars 3 (Semiolo 40, Bartlett 45, Savarese 74)
New England 1 (Naveda 29) Att: 10,510

Colorado Rapids 0
LA Galaxy 2 (Armas 6, Jones 76) Att: 7,824

San Jose Clash 0
Dallas Burn 1 (Alvarez 70) Att: 19,166

New England 1 (Naveda 3)
Columbus Crew 0 Att: 21,619

Kansas City 0
MetroStars 0 Att: 8,761
MetroStars won on shoot-outs

Tampa Bay 1 (George 8)
DC United 2 (Hejduk og 3, Iroha 29) Att: 14,062

Dallas Burn 1 (Santel 89)
LA Galaxy 3 (Karapetyan 44, Pena 60, Jones 65) Att: 9,032

Colombus Crew 4 (Wood 32, Farrell 38, Dooley 82, Yeagley 83)
Kansas City 0 Att: 15,132

Week ending Sunday, September 21

DC United 2 (Keegan 31, Harkes 87)
New England 2 (Moore 12, 53) Att: 11,607
DC United won on shoot-outs

Colorado Rapids 1 (Paz 74)
San Jose Clash 2 (Cerritos 41, Wynalda 61) Att: 6,955

Tampa Bay 2 (Gilmar 41, George 89)
Columbus Crew 1 (Maisonneuve 83)

LA Galazy 2 (Armas 35, Welton 83)
Dallas Burn 1 (Alvarez 54) Att: 19,421

DC United 1 (Pope 53)
Tampa Bay 2 (Vasquez 81, Gilmar 83) Att: 14,686

San Jose Clash 2 (Cerritos 22, Wynalda)
LA Galaxy 3 (Vasquez 71, 78, 80) Att: 20,147

JAPAN

J.LEAGUE 2ND STAGE

Wednesday, July 30

Jef United Ichihara 1 Urawa Reds 0; Yokohama Marinos 1 Jubilo Iwata 4; Bellmare Hiratsuka 7 Kashiwa Reysol 4; Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Yokohama Flugels 1; Cerezo Osaka 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 Gamba Osaka 2; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Kashima Antlers 3

Saturday, August 2

Jef United Ichihara 3 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Bellmare Hiratsuka 3 Gamba Osaka 4; Vissel Kobe 0 Kashsima Antlers 5; Yokohama Marinos 0 Urawa Reds 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Kashiwa Reysol 3; Cerezo Osaka 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 3; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Jubilo Iwata 3; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Yokohama Flugels 1

Wednesday, August 6

Urawa Reds 3 Shimizu S-Pulse 4; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Bellmare Hiratsuka 2; Gamba Osaka 3 Yokohama Marinos 4; Jubilo Iwata 2 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Vissel Kobe 0; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Yokohama Flugels 1 JEF United Ichihara 3

Saturday, August 9

Kashima Antlers 7 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Gamba Osaka 2; Bellmare Hiratsuka 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Vissel Kobe 2 Yokohama Flugels 3; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Kashiwa Reysol 1 (Avispa won 5-3 on pens); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 (Urawa Reds 2; Yokohama Marinos 7 Verdy Kawasaki 2; Cerezo Osaka 1 Jubilo Iwata 4

Friday, August 15

Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Yokohama Marinos 4

Saturday, August 16

Jef United Ichihara 0 Bellmare Hiratsuka 0 (Bellmare win 6-5 on pens); Urawa Reds 1 Avispa Fukuoka 2 (Nakaharai 2, Obiku 67); Kashiwa Reysol 0 Cerezo Osaka 1; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Yokohama Flugels 5 Kashima Antlers 3; Jubilo Iwata 2 Vissel Kobe 1; Gamba Osaka 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0

Wednesday, August 20

Yokohama Marinos 2 JEF United Ichihara 1; Vissel Kobe 2 Kashiwa Reysol 4; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Yokohama Flugels 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Kyoto Purple Sanga 0; Kashima Antlers 2 Jubilo Iwata 0; Cerezo Osaka 1 Urawa Reds 2; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Gamba Osaka 1

Saturday, August 23

Verdy Kawasaki 2 Avispa Fukuoka 0; Urawa Reds 2 Vissel Kobe 0; Kashiwa Reysol 3 Kashima Antlers 5; Jubilo Iwata 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 3; Bellmare Hiratsuka 1 Yokohama Marinos 3; JEF United Ichihara 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 3; Gamba Osaka 3 Cerezo Osaka 2; Kyoto Purple Sanga 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3

Saturday, August 30

Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Jef United Ichihara 0; Avispa Fukuoka 4 Kyoto Purple Sanga 2; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1Kashiwa Reysol 0; Cerezo Osaka 5 Verdy Kawasaki 3; Vissel Kobe 0 Gamba Osaka 4; Yokohama Flugels 0 Jubilo Iwata 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1; Kashima Antlers 1 Urawa Reds 0

Wednesday, September 3

Jef United Ichihara 2 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Urawa Reds 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Vissel Kobe 0; Yokohama Marinos 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Bellmare Hiratsuka 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Cerezo Osaka 1 *Cerezo win 7-6 on pens*; Gamba Osaka 2 Kashima Antlers 1; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Yokohama Flugels 2

Saturday, September 6

Yokohama Flugels 1 Urawa Reds 3; Kashima Antlers 5 Verdy Kawasaki 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Yokohama Marinos 3; Jubilo Iwata 2 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Gamba Osaka 1; Cerezo Osaka 1 Jef United Ichihara 0; Vissel Kobe 4 Kyoto Purple Sanga 2; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Bellmare Hiratsuka 2

Wednesday, September 9

Vissel Kobe 4 Avispa Fukuoka 3; Yokohama Flugels 2 Yokohama Marinos 3; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Gamba Osaka 2 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Kashima Antlers 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Kashiwa Reysol 1 Jef United Ichihara 2 ; Urawa Reds 4 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1;
Jubilo Iwata 3 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1

Saturday, September 13

Urawa Reds 0 Jubilo Iwata 1; Yokohama Marinos 4 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 Kashima Antlers 2; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Bellmare Hiratsuka 5 Cerezo Osaka 4; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Gamba Osaka 2 Yokohama Flugels 1; Jef United Ichihara 3 Vissel Kobe 4

Saturday, September 20

Bellmare Hiratsuka 2 Kashima Antlers 5; Yokohama Marinos 2 Vissel Kobe 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Yokohama Flugels 2; Gamba Osaka 1 Kashima Reysol 2; Jef United Ichihara 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Cerezo Osaka 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Avispa Fukuoka 3; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Jubilo Iwata 6

Wednesday, September 24

Kashima Antlers 2 Jef United Ichihara 1; Kashima Reysol 3 Urawa Reds 0; Yokohama Flugels 0 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Jubilo Iwata 1 Gamba Osaka 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 Kyoto Purple Sanga 2; Cerezo Osaka 2 Yokohama Marinos 3; Vissel Kobe 0 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 1

Saturday, September 17

Vissel Kove 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 3; Cerezo Osaka 3 Sanfreece Hiroshima 1; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1; Kashima Antlers 2 Yokohama Marinos 1; Jubilo Iwata 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Urawa Reds 1 Gamba Osaka 4; Yokohama Flugels 1 JEF United Ichihara 2

J. LEAGUE

	P	W1	W2	W3	L	F	APts	
Jubilo Iwata	14	10	2	0	2	33	14	34
Kashima Antlers	14	9	2	0	3	45	19	31
Gamba Osaka	15	9	2	0	4	34	20	31
Yokohama Antlers	14	7	4	0	3	38	24	29
Shimizu S-Pulse	14	8	1	0	5	25	14	26
Grampus Eight	14	8	0	0	6	19	23	24
Urawa Reds	14	7	0	0	7	23	20	21
Bellmare	14	6	1	1	6	30	31	21
Cerezo Osaka	14	5	1	1	7	28	29	18
Kashiwa Reysol	14	5	1	0	8	26	28	17
JEF United	14	3	3	0	8	19	23	15
Yokohama Flugels	14	4	1	0	9	21	26	14
Verdy Kawasaki	14	4	1	0	9	19	35	14
Sanfrecce	14	4	0	0	10	18	25	12
Avispa Fukuoka	14	3	0	1	10	18	27	10
Kyoto Purple S	14	3	0	0	11	20	35	9
Vissel Kobe	15	1	2	0	12	19	42	7

W1: Win in 90 mins (3pts), W2: Win in extra time (2pts), W1: Win on pens (1pts)

SOUTH AMERICA

SUPER CUP

(for Libertadores Cup winners)

Group 1

Aug 27 - Santiago (Chi)
Colo Colo (Chi) **4** (Zambrfano 34, Sierra 47, Basay 81, 90 pen)
Cruzeiro (Bra) **2** (Marcelo, Tice 18)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** A. Tejada (Per). **Att:** 5,000
Colo Colo: C. Arbiza, M. Salas, P. Reyes, J. Gonzalez (M. Latin 20), R. Munoz, Emerson, M. Espina, J. Sierra, R. Zambrano, I. Basay, M. Neira (M. Barticciotto 46)
Cruzeiro: Dida, Vitor, Gelson, Gottardo, Texeira, Leo, Ricardinho, Tick (Amorin 46), Elivelton, Marcelo, Cleison.

Aug 27 - Buenos Aires (Arg)
Boca Juniors (Arg) **1** (Solano pen 70)
Independiente (Arg) **1** (Alvez 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** H. Elizondo (Arg). **Att:** 20,000
Boca Juniors: O. Cordoba, S. Castillo, C. Traverso, N. Fabbri (Mantellan 30), M. Pineda, N. Ssolan, A. Berti, J. Basualdo (Toresani 66), C. La Paglia (P. Islas 68), D. Latorre, C. Caniggia.
Independiente: F. Mondragon, J. Martinez, P. Rotchen, C. Arzeno (sent off 69), J. Ramirez, F. Carrizo, A. Mancuso (F. Fernandez 67), D. Garnere (W. Cabrera 56), J. Burruchaga, M. Turde, G. Reggi (G. Alvez 62)

Sep 2 - Santiago (Chi)
Colo Colo (Chi) **2** (Basay 54, Espina 75)
Independiente (Arg) **0**
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** F. Panere (Col)
Colo Colo: C. Arbiza, M. Salas, P. Reyes, R. Munoz, M. Latin (M. Villaseca 58), M. Barticciotto, M. Espina, Emerson, J. Sierra, R. Zambrano (M. Neira 58), I. Basay.
Independiente: F. Mondragon, J. Martinez, P. Rotchen, S. Pena, J. Ramirez, A. Cascini, A. Mancuso (F. Carrizo 28), J. Burruchaga (W. Cabrera 46), D. Garnero, G. Reggi (A. Rojas 60), M. Turdo.

Sep 3 - Buenos Aires (Arg)
Boca Juniors (Arg) **1** (Bermudez 28)
Cruzeiro (Bra) **0**
Ht: 1-0. **Ref:** U. Aquino (Par)
Boca Juniors: O. Cordoba, N. Solano, J. Bermudez, C. Traverso, R. Arruabareena, J. Toresani, A. Beerti, D. Cagna, C. La Paglia, D. Latorre, M. Palermo.
Cruzeiro: Dida, Vitor (Marcos Teixeira 72), Gelson, Gottardo, Nonato, Donizete, Ricardinho, Elivelton, Leo (Caio 450), Marceloo, Cleison.

Pts after 2 games: Colo Colo 6, Boca Juniors 4, Independiente 1, Cruzeiro 0.

Group 2

Aug 26 - Rio de Janeiro (Bra)
Flamengo (Bra) **3** (Flavio Moraes 51, Renato Gauche 69, Savio 75)
Sao Paulo (Bra) **2** (Denilson 53, Franca 84)
Flamengo: Clemer, Fabio Baiano, Junior Baiano, Luis Alberto, Gilberto, Jamir, Jorginho, Flavio Moraes, Lucio, Renato Gaucho, Savio.
Sao Paulo: Rogerio, claudio, Rogerio Pinheiro, Bordon, Serginho, Sidnei, Belletti, Luis Carlos, Fabio Aurelio, Franca, Denilson.

Aug 27 - Asuncion (Par)
Olimpia (Par) **1** (Torres 44)
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) **0**
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** A. Pereira (Bra). **Att:** 10,000.
Olimpia: R. Tavarelli, V. Caceres, D. Caniza, J. Franco, S. Suarez, A. Jara, C. Paredes, L. Onzon, J. Centurion (A. Mendoza), F. Esteche (J. Valdez), f. Torres.
Velez Sarsfield: J. Chilavert, F. Zandona, S. Mendez, V. Sotomayor, R. Cardozo, C. Husain, J. Batalla (D. Carbone), M. Gomez, C. Bassedas, P. Camps 90. Asad), M. Posse.

Sep 2 - Asuncion (Par)
Olimpia (Par) **0**
Flamengo (Bra) **1** (Lucio 78)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** E. Dluzniewski **(Uru).** Att: 2,000.
Olimpia: R. Tabarelli, V. Caceres, J. Franco, D. Caniza, S. Suarez, A. Jara, C. Paredes, F. Esteche (A. Mendoza 58), L. Monzon (R. Gomez 70), J. Centurion (G. Gonzalez 58), F. Torres.
Flamengo: Clemer, Favio Baiano, Junior Baiano, Luiz Alberto, Gilberto, Jamir, Georginho, Lucio (Bruno 80), Iranildo, Renato Gaucho, Savie.

Sep 4 - Sao Paulo (Bra)
Sao Paulo (Bra) **5** (Marcelinho Sergipano 25, Carlos Compagnucci 30, Dodo 37, 77, Franca 85)
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) **1** (Batalla 6)
HT: 3-1
Sao Paulo: Rogerio, Claudio, Rogerio Pinheiro, Bordon, Serginho, Sidnei, Edmilson, Luis Carlos, Marcelinho (Denilson), Dodo, Franca.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Sotomayor, Pellegrino, Cardozo, Bataglia, M. Gomez, Camps, Campagnucci, Asad, Cordone.

Pts after 2 games: Flamengo 6, Sao Paulo & Olimpia 3, Velez Sarsfield 0.

Group 3

Aug 28 - Buenos Aires (Arg)
River Plate (Arg) **3** (Berti 36, Medina Bello 67, Solari 73)
Racing Club (Arg) **2** (Facciuto 54, Vilallonga 62)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** R. Ruscio (Arg).
River Plate: G. Burgos, H. Diaz, C. Ayala, E. Berizzo, J. Sorin, R. Monserrat, L. Astrada, S. Berti, M. Gallardo (S. Solari 52), J. Borrelli (Medina Bellow 60), M. Salas.
Racing Club: I. Gonzalez, M. Navas, C. Galvan, S. Brusco, C. MacAllister, P. Michelini, C. Ubeda, C. Facciuto, N. Diez (M. Mandra 76), M. Vilallonga, M. Delgado.

Aug 28 - Rio de Janeiro (Braz)
Vasco da Gama (Bra) **2** (Evair 33, Jean og 75)
Santos (Bra) **1** (Passos 88)
Vasco da Gama: Marcio, Cesar Prates, Odvan, Mauro Galvao, Marica, Valber, Luizinho, Pedrinho, Ramon Evair, Edmundo.
Santos: Zetti, Anderson, Jean, Ronaldao, Cassio, Marcos Basilio, Baiano, Caico (Marcelo Passes), Arinelson, Caio, Muller.

Sep 2 - Rio de Janeiro (Bra)
Vasco da Gama (Bra) **1** (Edmundo 85)
Racing Club (Arg) **1** (Vilallongra 34)
Vasco da Gama: Marcio, Cesar Prates, Odvan, Mauro Galvao, Felipe, Valber, Luizinho, Pedrinho, Mauricinho, Evair, Edmundo.
Racing Club: Caceres, Navas, Galvan, Brusco, MacAllister, Michelin, Ubeda, Facciutto, Capria (Zanetti), Delgado, Garcia Vilallonga)

Sep 4 - Buenos Aires (Arg)
River Plate (Arg) **3** (Escudero 45, Rambert 67, Salas 74)
Santos (Bra) **2** (Berizzo og 12, Caio 22)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** E. Gonzalez (Par)
River Plate: G. Burgos, H. Diaz, C. Ayala, E. Berizzo, J. Sorin, R. Monserrat, L. Gancedo, M. Escudero (Maisterra 80), S. Solari, S. Rambert, (Medina Bello 84), M. Salas.
Santos: Zetti, Baiano, Ronaldao (sent off 90), Jean, Narcise, Sandro (sent off 72), Basilio, Joao Santos (Arinelson 77), Alexandre (Crice 58), Caio, Muller.
Points: River Plate 6, Vasco da Gama 4, Racing Club 1, Santos 0.

Group 4

Aug 27 - Porte Alegre (Braz)
Gremio (Bra) **1** (Guilherme 52)
Penarol (Uru) **1** (Aguilera 17)
HT: 0-1
Gremio: Murilo, Arce, Rivarela, Luciano, Andre Santos, Dario, Luis Carlos Goiano, Beto, Sergie Manoel, Ze Alcino, Giuherme.
Penarol: Flores, S. Garcia, Rotundo, Goncalves, Lima, Pereyra, Borges, Cancela, Souza, M. Garcia, Aguilera.

Aug 27 - La Plata (Arg)
Estudiantes de la Plata (Arg) **1** (Furiga 1)
At. Nacional (Col) **0**
Ht: 1-0. **Ref:** G. Aros (Chi). **Att:** 5,000.
Estudiantes: C. Bossi, L. Ramos, P. Quatrocchi, R. Rojas, S. Catan (L. Temporini 66), A. Zapata, N. Tagliani, C. La Gretteria (M. Ledesma 48), M. Aguilar, M. Furiga, B. Roemo (A. Alayes 89).
Nacional: H. Tuberquia, J. Santa, L. Perea, I. Cordoba, D. Osorio, P. Alvarez, M. Serna, F. Grisales (F. Mosquera 73), A. Garcia, A. Comas (J. Angel 66), C. Castro (J. Gomez 73).

Sep 2 - Montevideo (Uru)
Penarol (Uru) **3** (Pacheco 54, Adinolfi 78, De Souza 85)
At. National (Col) **1** (Castro 76)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** R. Ortube (Bel)
Penarol: F. Alez, S. Garcia, O. Aguirregaray, N. Rotundo, E. Adonolfi, M. Romero, R. Pereira (M. De Souza), P. Bengoechea, A. Pachece, L. Romere (M. Zalayeta), C. Aguilera (J. Cancela).
Nacional: H. Tub erquia, J. Santa (F. Mosquera), L. Perea, I. Cordoba, D. Osorie, M. Serna, P. Alvarez, F. Grisales, a. Garcia, A. Comas (J. Angel), C. Castre.

Sept 3 - La Plata (Arg)
Estudiantes de la Plata (Arg) **0**
Gremio (Bra) **0**
Ref: R. Trexler (Par)
Estudiantes: C. Bossio, L. Ramos, P. Quatrocchi, R. Rojas, A. Zapata, S. Catan (L. Scaloni 55), N. Tagliani, M. Ledesma, M. Aguilar, M. Furiga (L. Carranza 71), R. Roman.
Gremio: Murilo, F. Arce, C. Rivarola, Eder, Andre Silva, Dario, Octacilie, Rodrigo Gral (Dinho 77), Sergie Manoel (Paulo Cesar 89), Ze Alcino (Gilmar 84), Guilherme.

Pts after 2 games: Penarol & Estudiantes 4, Gremio 2, Nacional 0.

CONMEBOL CUP

First round (1st legs)

Aug 27-Sept 10: Tolima (Col) 2 Rio Branco (Bra) 1; Universitario (Per) 3 Tecnico Universitario (Ecu) 0; Vitoria (Bra) 2 Sportivo Luqene (Par) 0; Real Santa Cruz (Bol) 1 Lanus (Arg) 1; Universidad de Chile 2 Colon Santa Fe (Arg) 1; Defensor (Uru) 3 Danubio (Uru) 3; Union Tachira (Ven) 1 America (Col) 1; Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 4 Portuguesa (Bra) 1.

First round (second leg)

Sept 3-10: Rio Branco (Bra) 1 Tolima (Col) 0. *Agg 2-2, Tolima win 3-1 on pens*; Tecnico Universitario (Ec) 0 Universitario (Per) 0 - Univ. *Peru win 3-0 on agg*; Sp. Luqueno (Par) 1 Vitoria (Bra) 4. *Suspended. 63min, fan trouble - Vitoria win 6-1 on agg*; Lanus (Arg) 5 Real Santa Cruz (Bol) 0. *Lanus win 6-1 on agg*; Colon (Arg) 2 Universidad de Chile 1. *Agg 3-3, Colin win 3-2 on pen*; Danuebie (Uru) 3 Defensor (Uru) 2. *Danubio win 6-5 agg*; America (Col) 3 Tachira (Ven) 1. *America win 4-2 on agg*; Portuguesa (Bra) 0 At. Mineiro (Bra) 0. *Mineiro win 4-1 on agg.*

ARGENTINA

Saturday, August 23

Lanus 1 (H. Morales) River Plate 3 (Medina Bello 9, C. Ayala 12, Siviero og 19)
Boca Juniors 4 (Latorre 6, 17, Arruabarena 12, Maradona pen 62)

Argentinos Juniors 2 ((P. Gomez 10, Vespa pen 79)
Rosario Central 2 (Carbonari 12, 48) Colon Santa Fe 0

Gimnasia Y Esgrima De La Plata 3 ((Sava 71, San Esteban pen 72, R. Sosa 79)
San Lorenzo 1 (Biaggio 21)

Union Santa Fe 2 ((Marzo 51, Cabrol 58)
Platense 1 (Erbin 45)

Racing Club 1 (Ubeda 89)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Chilavert pen 17)

Gimnasia Y Tiro Salta 2 (Ibanez pen 44, Saldano 64)
Newell's Old Boys 0
Huracan 0
Estudiantes De La Plata 2 (Romero 82, Scaloni 90)

Deportivo Espanol 0
Independiente 3 (Reggi 30, Arzene, Turdo 90)

Ferro Carril Oeste 5 (V. Lopez 11, Oviede 30, 63, Chaparre 52, C. Torres 67)
Gimnasia Y Esgrima De Jujuy 0

Sunday, August 31

San Lorenzo 3 (Biaggio 1, 21, Abreu 42)
Racing Club 2 (Mandra 61, Brusco 76)

Independiente 3 (Turdo 6, J. Martinez 9, Garnere 29)
Huracan 2 (C. Garcia pen 16, Romay 86)

River Plate 1 (Salas 89)
Rosario Central 3 (Da Silva 44, 80, Carbonari 67)

Platense 2 (Sponton 10, 53)
Boca Juniors 2 (S. Martinez 40, Arruabuena 71)

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Saldana 6, Paris 38, Lujambio 63) **Union Santa Fe 0**

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Campa 4, Pellegrino 82)
Gimnasia Y Tiro Salta 1 (Scotto 19)

Estudiantes De La Plata 2 (Ledesma 38, Tagliani 75)
Gimnasia Y Esgrima De La Plata 2 (Sanguinetti 27, Quatrocchi og 61)

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Gordille pen 41, Agoglia 57)
Ferro Carril Oeste 2 (Chaile 3, Marcelo pen 33)

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Vespa 81)
Lanus 0

Gimnasia Y Esgrima De Jujuy 4 (Garnier, Casartelli 2, Romano)
Deportivo Espanol 0

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internacional PA	13	9	4	0	29	11	31
Portuguesa	12	8	3	1	27	10	27
Palmeiras	13	7	3	3	24	10	24
Parana	14	6	4	4	20	12	22
Juventude	13	6	3	4	16	12	21
Vasco da Gama	11	6	2	3	20	15	20
At. Mineiro	12	5	3	4	16	17	18
At. Paranaense	13	5	3	5	22	24	18
Santos	11	5	2	4	17	12	17
Coritiba	12	4	5	3	16	13	17
Bragantino	13	5	2	6	18	23	17
Sao Paulo	13	4	4	5	16	16	16
Sport Recife	13	4	4	5	16	17	16
Corinthians	13	4	3	6	11	16	15
America-Natal	12	3	6	3	13	18	15
Criciuma	13	4	3	6	11	16	15
Guarani	13	3	5	5	20	26	14
Gremio	12	3	5	4	14	25	14
Flamengo	10	4	1	5	14	12	13
Fluminense	14	2	7	5	15	23	13
Vitoria	11	2	6	3	18	19	12
Botafogo	12	2	6	4	11	14	12
Cruzeiro	10	3	3	4	12	19	12
Goias	13	3	2	8	12	17	11
Bahia	13	2	5	6	21	27	11
Uniao Sao Joao	13	1	6	6	7	15	9

Top eight quality for semifinal stage.

CHILE

First Division Closing Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. Catolica	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
Colo Colo	4	4	0	0	9	2	12
Univ. de Chile	5	3	2	0	11	5	11
Union Espanola	5	3	1	1	12	9	10
Puerto Montt	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Cobreloa	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Osorno	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Palestino	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Huachipato	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Temuco	5	2	0	3	7	10	6
Concepcion	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
Audax Italiano	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Antofagasta	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Coquimbo	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Wanderers	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
La Serena	5	0	1	4	4	11	1

COLOMBIA

First Division closing championship

After 10 games: **Group A** - Tolima 19 pts; At. Junior 18; Independiente Santa Fe 16; America & Quindio 15; Bucaramanga 14, Caldas 12, Independiente Medellin 8. **Group B** - Millonarios 22 pts; Deportivo Cali 20; Union Magdalena 16; Envigado 15; Cortulu 14; Pereira 13; Nacional & Unicosta 11.

PERU

De-centralised closing championship

After 6 games: 1) Alianza Lima 13 pts; 2) Universitario 12; 3) Alianza Atletico, Melgar 11; 5) Sporting Cristal, Union Minas 10; 7) Cienciano 8; 8) Sport Boys, Dep. Pesquero, Galvez 6; 110 Loretana 5; 12) Vige 4; 13) At. Torino, Municipal 3.

BOLIVIA

National championship (closing tournament)

Group A - 1) Bolivar 13 pts; 2) Chaco Petrolere 12; 3) Real Santa Cruz 7; 4) San Jose, Destroyers 4; 6) Oriente Petrolero 2. **Group B** - 1) Blooming, Guabira 10; 3) Wilsterman 9; 4) The Strongest, Independiente Petrolero 6; 6) Municipal 0.

PARAGUAY

First Division closing championship

After 6 games: 1) Nacional, Sport Colombia, Cerro Cora 11 pts; 4) Cerro Porteno, San Lorenzo 10; 6) Colegiales, Guarani, Olimpia 9; 9) Sportivo Luqueno, Tembetary 8; 11) Presidente Hayes 6; 12) Libertad 5; 13) Sol de America 1.

ECUADOR

First Division closing championship

1) Liga Dep. Universitaria Quite 18 pts; 2) Deportivo Quite 16; 3) Barcelona 15; 4) Cuenca, Aucas 14 6) Tecnice Universitario, Emelec 12; 8) Espoli 10; 9) El Nacional, Calvi 8; 11) Olmede 3; 12) Dep. Quevede 1.

URUGUAY

First Division closing championship

After 5 games: 1) River Plate 10 pts; 2) Liverpool 9 3) Defensor (one game less), Penarol, Cerro 8; 6) Rampla Juniors 7; 7) Rentistas (one game less), Nacional 6; 9) Huracan Buceo, Racing Club 5; 11) Danubio, Wanderers 2.

WORLD UNDER 17 CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A – Cairo

Egypt 3 (Belal 2, Mahmoud)
Thailand 2 (Suksomit, Boonprom)

Germany 1 (Adzic)
Chile 0

Egypt 1 (Abou Zaid)
Chile 1 (Villalobos)

Germany 3 (Deisler, Hofman, Kehl)
Thailand 0

Egypt 1 (Ezz Eldin)
Germany 1 (Auer)

Chile 6 (Viveros 2, Alvarez, Maldonado (pen), Mirosevic, Zuniga)
Thailand 2 (Suksomit, Matong)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Egypt	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Chile	3	1	1	1	7	4	4
Thailand	3	0	0	3	4	12	0

GROUP B – Ismailya

Mali 4 (Keita 2, A.Coulibaly, Guindo)
New Zealand 0

Spain 3 (David 2, Mateos)
Mexico 2 (Santibanez, Arce)

Spain 1 (David)
Mali 0

Mexico 5 (Gomez 2, Santibanez, Martinez, Salcedo)
New Zealand 0

Spain 13 (David 4, Ivan Lopez 3, Mateos 2, Ander, Sergio (pen), Corona, Ivan Royo)
New Zealand 0

Mali 3 (Keita 2, D.Coulibaly)
Mexico 1 (Perez)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	17	2	9
Mali	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Mexico	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
N.Zealand	3	0	0	3	0	22	0

GROUP C – Alexandria

Oman 4 (Mohamed 2, Al Harbi, J.Al Mukhaina)
USA 0

Brazil 7 (Fabio Pinto, Geovanni, Matuzalem, Anailson (pen), Diogo, Ferrugem, Ronaldo)
Austria 0

Brazil 3 (Jorginho, Matuzalem, Adiel)
USA 0

Oman 3 (Moham

Brazil win through...African Champions League

Brazil 3 (Fabio Pinto, Geovanni, Jorginho)
Oman 1 (Mohamed)

USA 4 (Twellman 2, Rupsis, Totten)
Austria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Oman	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
USA	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Austria	3	0	0	3	1	14	0

GROUP D – Port Said

Argentina 0
Ghana 0

Bahrain 3 (Rahman, Amer Sa'ad, Rashed)
Costa Rica 1 (Esquivel)

Ghana 5 (A.Quaye, Abbey, Ansah, Attram, Eku)
Bahrain 1 (Amer Sa'ad)

Argentina 1 (Galletti)
Costa Rica 0

Argentina 2 (Marchant, Marchano)
Bahrain 0

Ghana 2 (A.Quaye, Coffie)
Costa Rica 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Argentina	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Bahrain	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

QUARTER-FINALS

September 14 - Cairo
Germany 0
Mali 0
Aet. Germany win 4-3 penalties
Att: 7,000. **Ref:** Jun Lu (Chi).
Germany: Weidenfeller - Hauschild (Strasser 73), Truckenbrod, Straub - Zepek, Kehl (Backer 65), Deisler, Bugri, Morena - Hoffman (Miedl 108), Adzic.
Mali: Thiam - Adama Coulibaly, Diakite, Guindo, Mahamadou Diarra, Karambe, D.Coulibaly (Mamadou Diarra 94), Keita, Y.Coulibaly, Amadou Coulibaly, Camara.

September 14 - Alexandria
Brazil 2 (Fabio Pinto 43, 83)
Argentina 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Jacek Granat (Pol)
Brazil: Fabio - Andrey, Fernando, Gaviao, Abel - Jorginho, Diogo (Geovanni 59), Ferrugem, Matuzalem - Fabio Pinto, Ronaldo (Anailson 90).
Argentina: Costanzo - Fernandez, Milito, Chaparro, Grabinski - Marchant, Pereyra (Santo 61), Zubeldia, Gonzalez (Prieto 77) - Galletti, Farias.

September 15 - Port Said
Ghana 4 (M.Al Mukhaini og 25, Coffie 42, Afriyie 79, A.Quaye 88)
Oman 1 (Al Amri 57)
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Rene Temmink (Hol)
Ghana: Boateng - D.Quaye, Owusu, Razak, Mohammed (Laryea 85) - Attram, Yakubu (Adjogu 67), Ansah - Afriyie, Eku, Coffie (A.Quaye 73).
Oman: Al Alawi - J.Al Mukhaini (Zayid 65), Al Hadabi, Jaman, Al Farsi, Al Yaraabi (Ba Alawi 36) - M.Al Mukhaini, Al Bulushi, Al Amri (Al Sa'adi 81), Al Harbi - Mohamed.

September 15 - Ismailya,
Spain 2 (Sergio 28, Camacho 66)
Egypt 1 (Belal 31)
Att: 13,500. **Ref:** Rodriguez Portillo.
Spain: Casillas; Blas (Gurrutxaga 82), Ander, Cesar, Ivan Sanchez; Camacho, Corona (Mateos 85), Sousa, Xavi; David, Sergio (Ivan Royo 91).
Egypt: Ekramy; Abou El Khair, Hefnawy, Hassan; Ashraf, Hany, Ahmed, Eid (Mahmoud 80), Mosleh (Aly 89); Belal, Abou El Ela (Zahran 77).

SEMI-FINALS

September 18 - Ismailya
Brazil 4 (Adiel 3, Geovanni 85, Ferrugem 86, Ronaldo pen 88)
Germany 0
Att: 8,500. **Ref:** Ian McCleod (SA).
Brazil: Fabio - Andrey, Fernando, Gaviao, Adiel (Abel 67) - Jorginho, Diogo (Geovanni 53), Ferrugem, Matuzalem - Fabio Pinto (Anailson 89), Ronaldo.
Germany: Weidenfeller - Hauschild (Backer 34), Truckenbrod, Straub - Zepek, Kehl, Deisler, Bugri, Morena (Strasser 73) - Hoffman (Auer 46), Adzic.

September 18 - Cairo
Ghana 2 (Attram 47, Afriyie 78)
Spain 1 (Sousa 34)
Att: 4,000. **Ref:** Mario Sanchez (Chi)
Ghana: Boateng - D.Quaye, Owusu, Razak (Mohammed 88), Abdul - Attram, Yakubu, Ansah, Adjogu - Afriyie, Coffie (A.Quaye 59).
Spain: Casillas - Blas, Ander, Cesar, Ivan Sanchez - Camacho, Corona (Mateos 72), Sousa, Xavi - David (Ivan Royo 86), Sergio.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

September 21 - Cairo
Spain 2 (Ander 31, Sousa 88)
Germany 1 (Adzic pen 61)
Att: 35,000. **Ref:** Rodriguez Portillo (EIS).
Spain: Casillas - Blas (Gurrutxaga 55), Ander, Cesar, Ivan Sanchez (Mateos 32) - Camacho, Corona (Gallardo 66), Sousa, Xavi - David, Sergio.
Germany: Weidenfeller - Hauschild, Truckenbrod, Straub - Zepek, Kehl, Deisler (Hoffman 72), Dittrich, Christ (Bugri 68) - Auer (Backer 80), Adzic.

FINAL

September 21 - Cairo
Brazil 2 (Matuzalem 64, Andrey 88)
Ghana 1 (Afriyie 40)
Att: 35,000. **Ref:** Terje Hauge (Nor).
Brazil: Fabio - Andrey (Henrique 89), Fernando, Gaviao, Abel - Jorginho, Diogo (Geovanni 54), Ferrugem, Matuzalem (Rogerio 90) - Fabio Pinto*, Ronaldo. **Fabio Pinto sent off 76 min*
Ghana: Boateng - D.Quaye, Abdul, Razak - Adjogu, Attram, A.Quaye (Owusu 56), Mohammed - Abbey (Coffie 73), Afriyie, Ansah.

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AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Orlando Pirates 1 (Dumisa Ngobe 47)
Primeiro Agosto 2 (Assis 61pen, De Antonio 86)

USM Alger 2 (Hadj Adlane 16, 85)
Raja Casablanca 2 (Abdelkrim Nadir 37, Abdallah Fahmi 89)

Primeiro Agosto 1 (Juliao 85)
Raja Casablanca 1 (Mustapha Moustaoudia 54)

USM Alger 2 (Tarek Ghoul 13pen, Hadj Adlane 47)
Orlando Pirates 1 (Dumisa Ngobe 41)

Primeiro Agosto 2 (Juliao 44, Kiss 80pen)
USM Alger 1 (Nacer Zekri 42)

Raja Casablanca 1 (Mustapha Khalif 7pen)
Orlando Pirates 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Primeiro Agosto	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Raja Casablanca	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
USM Alger	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Orlando Pirates	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

Group B

Zamalek 2 (Akram Adelmagid 3, Tarek El Sayed 39)
Ferroviario Maputo 1 (Danito I 14)

Club Africain 0
Goldfields 0

Ferroviario Maputo 0
Club Africain 0

Club Africain 2 (Faouzi Rouissi 37pen, Jamel Limam 64)
Zamalek 0

Ferroviario Maputo 2 (Arnaldo 4, Eurico 7)
Goldfields 1 (Ibrahim Kone 35)

Goldfields 3 (Kossi Noutsoudje 60, 89, 89)
Zamalek 1 (Tarek Mostafa 89)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Africain	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
Goldfields	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Ferroviario Maputo	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Zamalek	3	1	0	2	3	6	3

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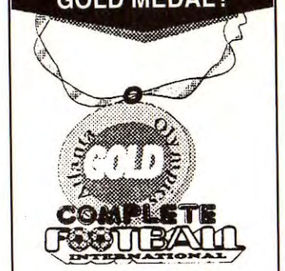

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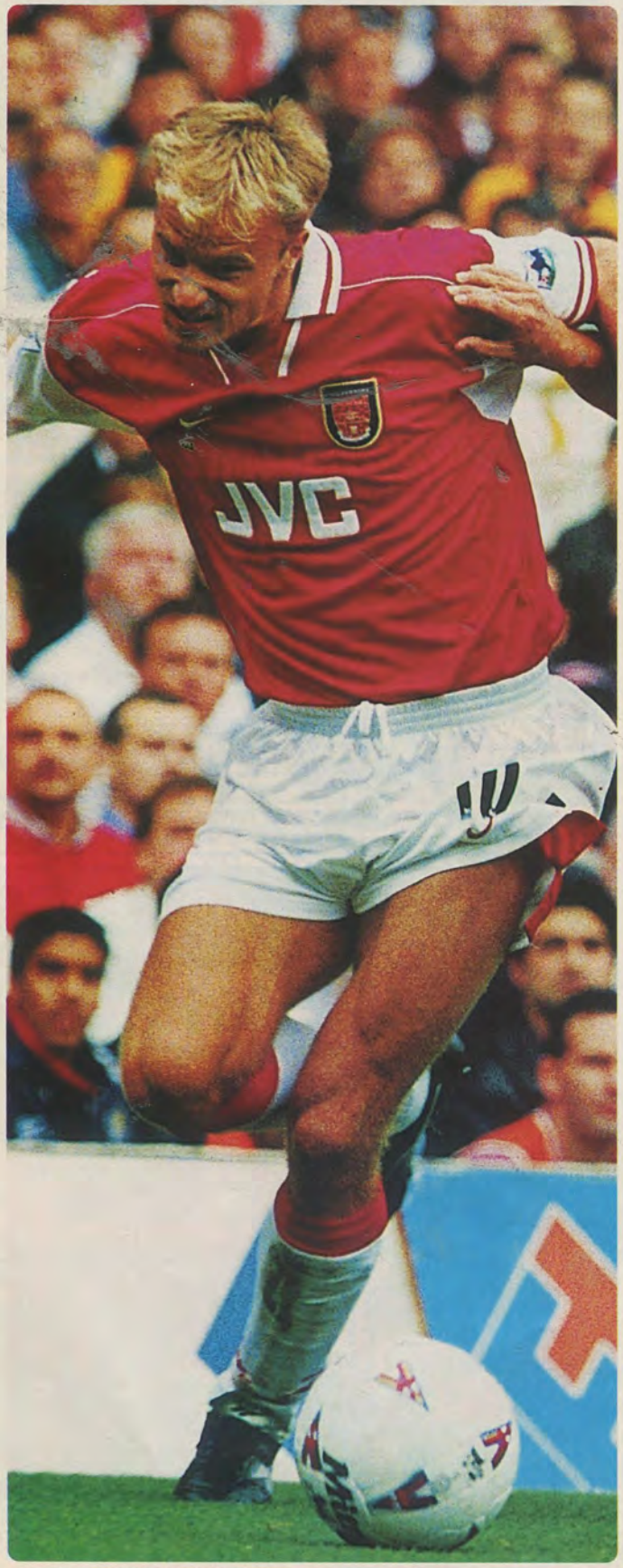


Star man...Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp

Bergkamp, joining the greats

ONE MAN, we know, doesn't make a team, but what are Arsenal without Dennis Bergkamp? On his form this season he must be among the best players in the world, an extraordinary compound of great skill, flair, strength and opportunism.

Some of the goals he has scored have been the fruit of extraordinary sleights of foot, but he has pace to go with his finesse. As he demonstrated at Highbury when he raced ahead of Ian Pearce, West Ham's centre-back, previously renowned for his speed, to score Arsenal's first goal.

Arsene Wenger rightly says that Bergkamp cannot be played in midfield as the work load would take the edge off his game, and that he is capable of popping up anywhere and everywhere, now as a spearhead, now between the lines, now in midfield.

When Arsenal went to Salonika without him, they looked a parody of a team: and lost their UEFA Cup tie, 1-0. When I put this to Wenger as a potential worry, he insisted that the whole Arsenal team had played poorly, which surely begged the question.

Devoid of real invention in midfield, Arsenal are heavily reliant on Bergkamp's brilliance.

Fear of flying, somewhat bizarrely, kept Bergkamp out of the Salonika game. Which no doubt left him all the fresher for the match away to Chelsea on the Sunday three days after Chelsea had met Bratislava, five after Arsenal's Salonika trip. He scored two goals in Arsenal's victory.

Chelsea have their own galaxy of foreign stars and far more strength in depth, but a Bergkamp can change any game.

How strange he failed so sadly with Inter. He says, looking back, that the club tended to expect too much too soon in terms of its results, but the truth of the matter seems to be that Bergkamp, a shy, somewhat introverted figure, never took to life in Italy. Nor did it help when he was pushed into a purely central attacking position, rather than being what Wenger sees him as, an ideal second striker.

At Arsenal, who paid a fortune for him, he made a slow beginning, but now he has resplendently taken wing. There is no doubt, for all Ian Wright's inspired opportunism, who is the major star.

Carry on like this, and Bergkamp will be right up there with Johan Cruyff and Marco Van Basten in the Dutch pantheon.

Bearzot speaks

ENZO BEARZOT has spoken. Manager of Italy in three World Cups, winner in 1982, he has given us his thoughts in a book called *Il Romanzo Del Vecio.* (A life on the counter attack.)

He certainly does not spare his successor, Arrigo Sacchi. Sacchi's views, he claims, come from a fixed point of view. Absurd, because the opposition is the crux of the matter, and it never allowed you "to interpret at your own pleasure. Sacchi's is not real football, it's virtual football, based on a geometric scheme."

Which means, he says, getting hold of players, then the team as a whole, forcing them to make "a series of movements destined to become automatic, by means of repetition".

It can be done, says Bearzot. Even animals are capable of it. The dog which accompanies a blind man can stop when the light is red and go when it's green. But is this attractive football?

How, demands Bearzot, can you try for automatic play through obsessive repetition, then change your dog every day? The contradiction between automatic play and changes is paradoxical, unless you regard the players as robots. "If that be the case, let's shut up shop."

Bearzot demands how Italy got to the 94 World Cup Final: through Sacchi's plans or through Roberto Baggio's solos? And as for Sacchi's demand that in case of victory he should pocket a bonus twice the size of the players, Bearzot responds with withering scorn.

All in the mind...Pat Nevin (right) with fellow professional Gary Stevens

Managers make the best psychologists

HOW WELL I remember the first soccer psychologist I ever came across. It was in Gothenburg, at the 1958 World Cup, and he was working for Brazil. He came from Sao Paolo, an amiable, unshaven, bespectacled figure, who complained that he was often being interviewed, but nobody had shown him the articles.

He did not, he said, believe in talking to players individually, because that magnified the problem. But nor did he believe in haranguing them in groups. Defenders must control their aggression, attackers must project it. Simple and sophisticated players made good wing partnerships. He sorted them out by getting the players to draw a picture of a man. Some drew him very basically, others with some detail.

Vicente Feola, the rotund manager of Brazil, rumbled to me behind the goal in Gothenburg's Ullevi stadium, as his players trained, "How can he know the ambience?"

When Brazil had crushed Sweden in the Final, the happy psychologist helped the players to carry the Swedish flag around the stadium.

These thoughts recurred to me after the recent emissions of Dr George Sik. He, a sports psychologist, attended the recent meeting of the British Association and got much publicity – which can hardly have distressed him – with his scarcely veiled pictures of Gareth Southgate and Stan Collymore.

Southgate, he averred, should never have taken that vital penalty against Germany at Wembley, in Euro 96. This because he was "said to see himself as pessimistic and slow to make decisions. But because he was team-spirited, he was likely to volunteer to take penalties."

In Turin in the 1990 World Cup semi-final, Stuart Pearce, anything but a sensitive, pessimistic plant, took a crucial penalty against Germany; and missed. Just as two such utterly diverse characters as Roberto Baggio and Franco Baresi of Italy missed those shoot-out penalties in Pasadena, allowing Brazil to win the 1994 World Cup.

Dr Sik is here, there and everywhere. He has even collaborated on a book *In Ma Head Son* (Mainline, £15.99), with Pat Nevin, that goblin of the touchline. Dr Sik is modest enough to admit that Nevin, a bright little button, needed no interlocutor; but he hoped (what a hope!) to fulfil the function of the psychologist who co-wrote that series of books with John Cleese.

In the event, all Sik does with his boring interpolations is to get in the way. Ideally, Nevin could have produced a fascinating diary in the manner of Eamonn Dunphy or Garry Nelson, or have written a straightforward autobiography.

The fact is, as those of us who have 'ghosted' footballers' autobiographies well know (I plead guilty to Cliff Bastin's and Jack Kelsey's), that one tries at length to put grit in the footballer's oyster; but then one keeps carefully out of the completed picture.

Derby County have their very own soccer psychologist, too. When Chris Powell recently scored his first goal for the club, against Everton, he thanked one Bill Beswick: "He's been telling me it's not just my job to make goals, but to start taking responsibility."

Hang about. What on earth are managers for?

At their best, they are the finest football psychologists of all. I think of Vittorio Pozzo, who won two World Cups with Italy between the wars. "Kind, but with a strong hand," he told me. "If I let them make mistakes, I lose my authority."

Pozzo's friend and contemporary Herbert Chapman was just as adept at Arsenal. George Male, a moderate wing-half, was called into Chapman's office when he needed a right-back to succeed Tom Parker. By the time he got out, said Male, he was convinced not only that he could play right-back, but that he would be the best in the world; 19 caps for England followed.

When documents go adrift

THE LAST person to be astonished that vital documents relating to the Anderlecht-Nottingham Forest scandal had 'disappeared' from UEFA's headquarters was myself.

They had been sitting there, or not sitting there, for five long years, at the end of which UEFA's 10-year statute of limitations came into operation.

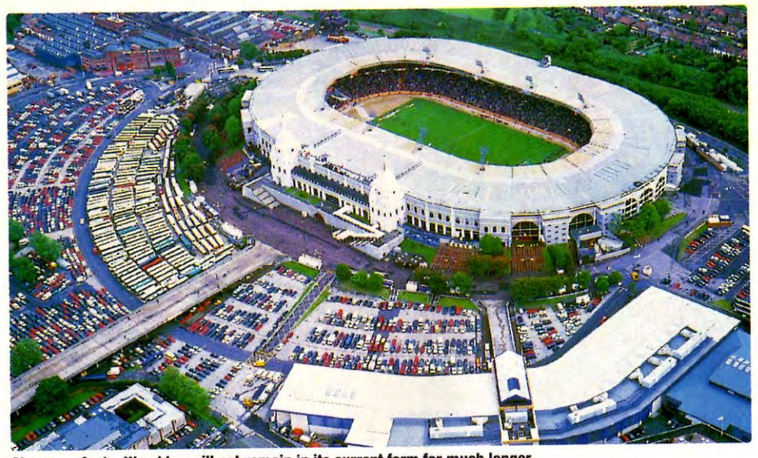
UEFA, in desperation, still tried to impose a ban on Anderlecht for buying the late referee Guruceta Muro of Spain in that second leg semi-final of their own Cup, but it was a decision which flew in the face of their own regulations.

A couple of seasons or so ago, UEFA came down like a ton of bricks on Kiev Dynamo, found guilty of offering fur coats to Spanish referee Lopez Nieto. Kiev appealed and the appeal went through – turned down – with the speed of light.

Kiev may or may not have been guilty – their punishment was subsequently lightened – but their complaint that they had been pounced on because they were of little weight was hard to dismiss.

Had they had a Gianni Agnelli in the background, perhaps they too would have received the scandalous letter of thanks and absolution that Juve did from UEFA's secretary, Hans Bangerter, in 1973.

Disciplined...Anderlecht finally receive punishment



Changes afoot...Wembley will not remain in its current form for much longer

London

Gavin Hamilton on the capital's footballing forces

WHEN Glenn Hoddle was manager of Chelsea he claimed that it was always more difficult for London teams to win the League than northern sides because clubs from the capital had to play so many derbies. The intense nature of such matches, Hoddle claimed, took the edge off London teams' title challenges.

London teams have won the League title just twice since Tottenham did the double in 1961, so perhaps Hoddle had a point. Even so, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has a good case for claiming that the England coach doth protest too much, and can point to United's recent bruising encounter with Bolton as evidence that things can get pretty grim up north.

London has more professional football clubs than any other city in the world, with the notable exception of Buenos Aires. With six Premier League teams, no other city in Europe has more punters passing through the turnstiles every weekend. Yet London fails to stir the passions in the way that Milan, Montevideo or Madrid get the juices flowing.

'No other city in Europe has more punters passing through the turnstiles every weekend'

The sprawling nature of the metropolis means that no club can claim to represent the whole of the city. Arsenal are perhaps the closest any team gets, largely because of their origins in South London. Formed by employees of the Royal Arsenal artillery workshops in Woolwich, south-east London, the club's early years were spent at the Manor Ground in Plumstead.

Transport links to Plumstead were poor, and Arsenal never established themselves in that south-eastern corner of the city. The club was bought in 1910 by Sir Henry Norris, a controversial property developer and chairman of Second Division Fulham. Norris's plan was to merge Arsenal with Fulham, thus bringing First Division football to Craven Cottage. The Football League objected, and Norris relocated instead to a site in Highbury, north London.

While nothing remains of the Manor Ground, the present-day stadium at Highbury is established as one of the finest in the country, a delicate balance of 1930s tradition and 1990s comfort. Admire the art deco architecture as you munch on your smoked salmon bagel.

That bagels are served at Highbury these days says a great deal about the changing nature of the 1990s fan. No club is doing more to attract wealthy followers than Chelsea. From the foreigners on the pitch to the customised scooters on sale in the club shop, not to mention London's highest ticket prices, Chelsea are committed to making your wallet that little but lighter.

The money is helping to fund a new Stamford Bridge. The impressive new stands will continue to be home to the assorted toffs and taxi drivers who have been uneasy bedfellows at Chelsea over the years, and Chelsea's reputation as London's glamour club will no doubt grow.

Just as Chelsea draw fans from west London and further afield, so West Ham can claim passionate support from EastEnders and ex-EastEnders now resident in Essex. The Hammers' reputation as an affable East End institution – the 'Academy' of football – is well established. Unfortunately, so is the East End's reputation for racism. The chants of "I'd rather be a Paki than a Yid" directed at Tottenham fans, and heard by this correspondent recently, bear testament to that.

Arsenal's great rivals, Tottenham, are the only club in London to have any sort of ethnic identity. The club's Jewish links, with both fans and directors, have been well documented and are still strong, although Spurs' reputation for playing stylish, attacking football has lessened under the arch pragmatist Gerry Francis.

South of the river, Crystal Palace continue their battle to appeal to the loyalty of locals who have in the past preferred to bask in the glory of following bigger clubs. Chairman Ron Noades, a former owner of Wimbledon, has pioneered ground-sharing, first with Charlton and now with Wimbledon. The arrangements have benefited Palace financially but fans remain worried that Noades' long-term aim is a merger of Palace and Wimbledon, with the club playing in a new stadium out by the M25 motorway.

Wimbledon's immediate future is likely to be at Selhurst Park, a place visiting fans dread travelling to. Their criticisms are based mainly on the lack of a tube station in SE25. But with three British Rail stations within walking distance, the stadium is no more isolated than Tottenham's White Hart Lane.

Charlton are now happily resettled back at a redeveloped Valley after an uncertain time sharing with Palace. Elsewhere in the Football League, Queens Park Rangers are struggling to adapt to life outside the top flight but still in the shadows of neighbours Chelsea. Millwall have found life at the New Den tougher than at their former, spartan surroundings at Cold Blow Lane.

Elsewhere, Brentford, Fulham, Barnet and Orient still offer a chance to sample a life long discarded by the sanitised Premiership. The riverside setting makes Fulham's Craven Cottage the capital's most picturesque ground, and many Londoners would, if pressed, claim Fulham as their 'second team'. Kevin Keegan's appointment captured the imagination of the media, but cynics suggest owner Mohammed Al-Fayed's interest in Fulham stretches no further than the property value of the Cottage.

Talking of expensive redevelopment, Wembley Stadium is in desperate need of change. A national monument Wembley may be, but it is a cramped, uncomfortable place to watch football, with dreadful transport links to boot. Plans are well-advanced to turn the national stadium into an arena fit for the 21st century. Only the twin towers will remain amid the extensive changes. For many, they cannot come quickly enough.

Craven Cottage, Fulham

Stamford Bridge, Chelsea

Arsenal Stadium, Highbury

Selhurst Park, SE25

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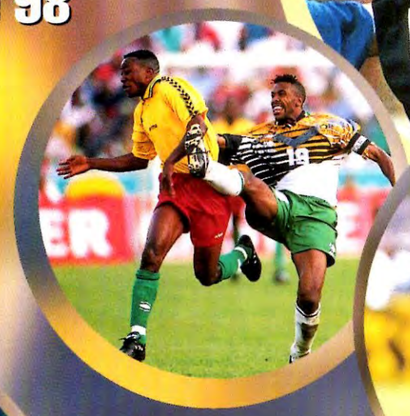

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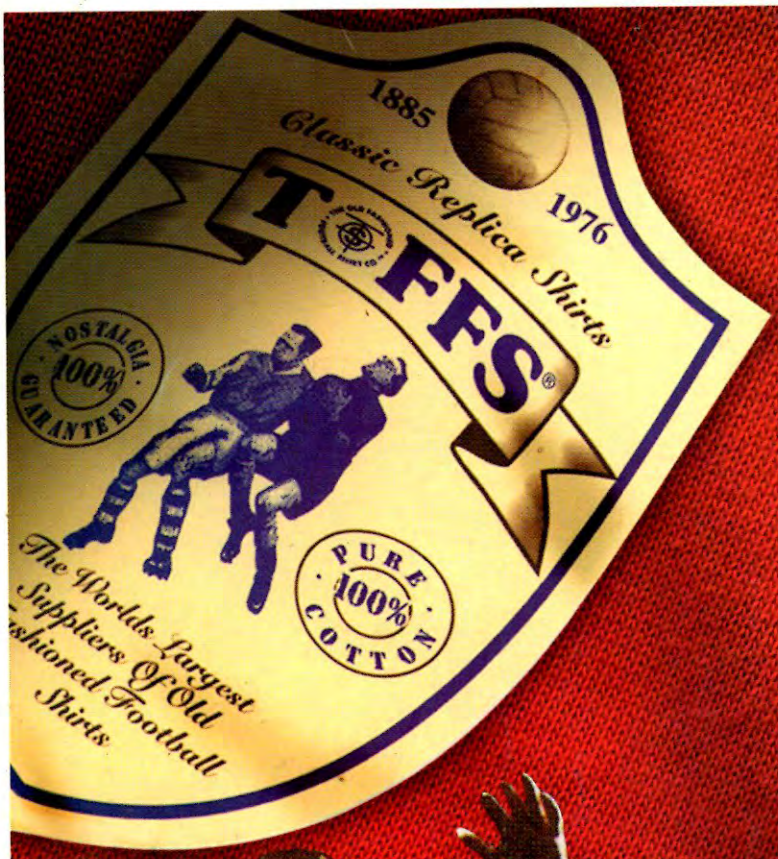

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